www.saipantribune.com 50¢ Volume XIX, Issue No. 95 TUESDAY APRIL 21, 2009

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OPINION METER

This week's poll:

Do you plan to check out the Flame Tree Arts Festival this week?

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Fortune 500

Exxon Mobil has unseated Wal-Mart Stores in the 2009 Fortune

BUSINESS...Page 13



After Columbine

The "boy in the window" during the horrifying Columbine High shoot-

NATION...Page 14



Miss North Carolina USA Kristen Dalton was crowned Miss USA 2009 on Sunday.

LIFE & STYLE...Page 18

\$26,000 for Calif. travel of 4 Fund trustees, 1 staffer. PAGE 2 May Day rally set for improved immigration status. PAGE 5

Family of 4 remains missing at sea

BY MONETH G. DEPOSA

A two-member team from the Western Association of Schools and Colleges is currently on island for a final visit to the Northern Marianas College.

The CNMI's lone tertiary institution is currently on show-cause status and is working to affirm its accreditation.

Dr. Sherrill Amador, chair of the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges, and Dr. Chris Myers, interim director for Cerritos College Research and Planning, make up the WASC delegation.

The two are here to validate the contents of NMC's report submitted on April 1.

See WASC on Page 4

Search teams fail to locate missing mariners

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE

earch and rescue team failed yesterday to locate a family of four who has been reported missing since Saturday night while traveling from Guam to Rota aboard a catamaran.

Lt. Elizabeth Buendia, U.S. Coast Guard Sector Guam command center chief, said there were no significant updates about the missing family as of 3pm yesterday.

Buendia said the U.S. Coast Guard cutter Washington, a 110-foot patrol boat, joined the search for the missing mariners yesterday afternoon.

See FAMILY on Page 4

50 cars burned, damaged in 5th arson incident

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE

Arson investigators have determined that the fire that hit an auto shop's junkyard in Chalan Laulau Friday after-

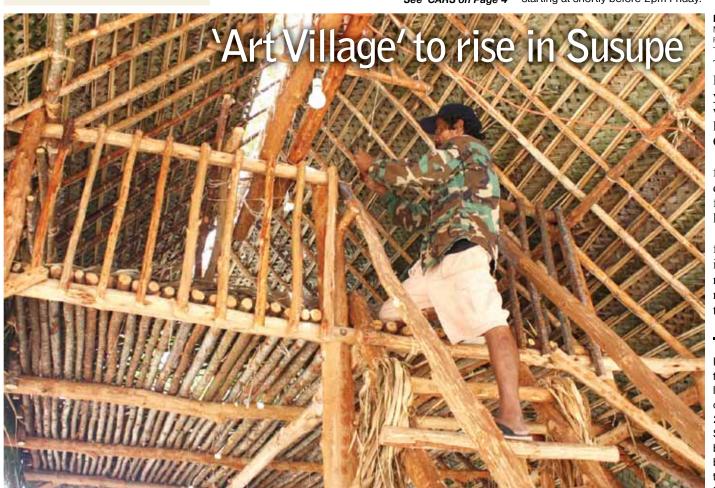
noon was intentionally set off, bringing to five the number of arson cases on Saipan in the past two months. The Department of Public Safety disclosed yesterday

that 50 cars were burned or damaged in the blaze. DPS spokesperson Eric David said yesterday that

See CARS on Page 4



Police officers are on standby as they wait for the arrival of fire trucks to fight the fire that engulfed cars at the Auto Motion Shop in Chalan Laulau starting at shortly before 2pm Friday.



By MONETH G. DEPOSA

The Department of Public Lands has approved the fiveyear use of a lot in Susupe that will be the site of a new Art Village showcasing Carolinian and Chamorro crafts.

Community and Cultural Affairs Secretary Cecilia T. Celes described the project as a "perfect" way to promote the islands' local talents.

The Art Village, which will feature Carolinian and Chamorro indigenous crafts in two interconnected huts, is being constructed near the Susupe Civic Center the venue of this week's 28th

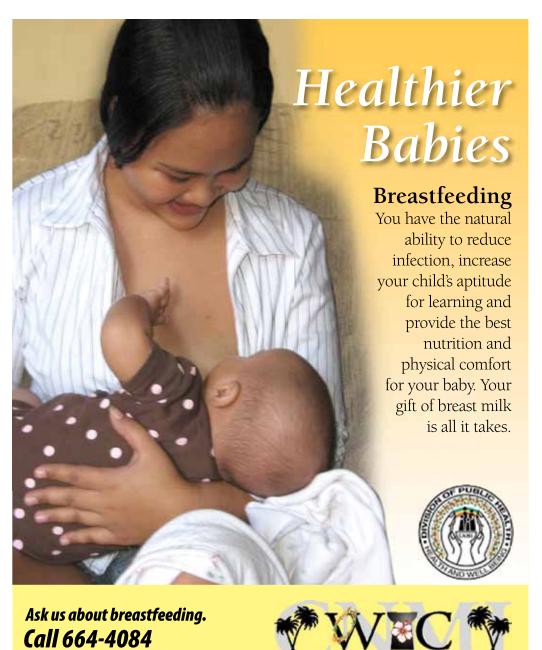
See ART on Page 4

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Ike Borja, 54, works on one of two traditional Chamorro/Carolinian huts made of pine tree and coconut leaves at the site of the 28th Flame Tree Arts Festival in Susupe. The huts, which were built starting on March 20, will become the permanent site for the Center for the Performing and Indigenous Arts.

2 TUESDAY, APRIL 21, 2009 SAIPAN TRIBUNE

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Local

\$26,000 for Calif. travel of 4 Fund trustees, one staffer

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com REPORTER

The NMI Retirement Fund will be adding \$26,000 to its Fiscal Year 2009 travel budget to cover the expenses of four board trustees and one staffer who will attend a workshop in California in June.

From \$69,600, the revised FY 2009 travel budget will go up to \$95,600.

David S. Demapan, comptroller of the NMI Retirement Fund, said yesterday the board of trustees approved the travel budget revision during its April 13 meeting. He said the Fund expects to spend \$26,000 for the business trip.

"I'm in the process of revising the budget to reflect the change, after the board approved it," Demapan told Saipan Tribune.

Demapan said if the board did not revise the business trip, the travel budget would have been \$4,346 after deducting \$26,000 from the previous level of \$30,346 by June. Demapan said if there's only \$4,346 budget by end June, this will not be enough to cover the remaining months of FY 2009.

The four board trustees and one employee will be attending the International Foundation of Employee Benefit Plans' Trustees Institute in San Francisco, California from June 14 to 17.

IFEBP's Trustees and Administrators Institutes, offered twice a year, are developed by active trustees, administrators and pro-

in attendance gain the education and updated information they need for their specific role.

The board of trustees also approved the revision of the actuarial fees budget from \$52,000 to \$77,505.

Demapan said the increase of \$25,505 relates to two invoices, including a March 25 invoice of \$13,855 for consulting work performed by Buck Consultants on the emergency plan, calculations on overdue contributions, and analysis of the omnibus bill intended to protect the Retirement Fund.

The other invoice dated Feb. 11 is for \$11,650 consulting service provided by Buck Consultants. "The fund balance shows an overfessional advisors to help those run of \$12,649," said Demapan.

Guerrero says Villagomez didn't tell him to lie

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com REPORTER

Guam attorney David J. Lujan, counsel for Lt. Gov. Timothy P. Villagomez, spent several hours yesterday cross-examining the U.S. government's 24th witness-former Commonwealth Utilities Corp. executive director Anthony C. Guerrero.

In his testimony, Guerrero agreed with Lujan that during his taped conversations with Villagomez, the lieutenant governor did not tell him to lie to the Federal Bureau of Investigation or any other law enforcement personnel.

Nor did Villagomez ask him not to cooperate with the investigation relating to the purchases of Rydlyme, Guerrero said.

Quoting a transcript of one of the taped conversations, Lujan said the lieutenant governor told Guerrero to do what is right let them investigate.

"That's correct," the former neering, the manufacturer of Ryd-

CUC official replied.

Guerrero agreed that when he told Villagomez during their wired conversations that the FBI was grilling him about Rydlyme, the lieutenant governor did not tell him not to talk to the FBI about the Rydlyme transactions.

He said Villagomez only asked if his name had popped up.

Guerrero also admitted that in one of those taped conversations, Villagomez did not tell him to hide any information about him or to tell a lie about the Rydlyme transaction.

When Saipan Tribune left the courtroom yesterday afternoon, Lujan was still crossexamining the former CUC executive director relating to the wired conversations.

Earlier yesterday, Guerrero said he was shocked upon learning only after the signing of the solesource contract that Blue Pacific paid only \$30,000 to Apex Engilyme, for the 2007 transaction.

He said with the \$120,000 purchase, he could not look at CUC managers in the eyes because at that time CUC couldn't buy fuel and some power plant parts.

Guerrero said he if he had known earlier that Blue Pacific only paid \$30,000 for the chemical, he would not have given the company any payment.

Guerrero has already pleaded guilty to wire fraud, conspiracy, and theft of federal funds. He began his testimony last Thursday.

Lujan began cross-examining Guerrero on Friday morning.

Guerrero earlier testified that Villagomez pressured him to process the \$120,000 Rydlyme sole-source contract with Joaquina V. Santos' Blue Pacific and make some payments. He also admitted he was wired by the FBI when he talked with Villagomez about the justification to purchase Rydlyme from Blue Pacific.

\$5M stimulus funds mulled for medical referrals

By KRISTI EATON

The administration is changing how it plans to use \$8 million in federal stimulus funds.

Esther Fleming of the Office of Management and Budget said government officials are now planning on reserving approximately \$5 million for the Department of Public Health's Medical Referral Office, which has seen a spike in numbers but was only budgeted for \$5,172 for non-personnel costs in Fiscal Year 2009. The administration had originally planned on using all the money to cover employee payroll. Now the plan is to allocate majority of the money to DPH and use the remaining \$3 million to cover employee payroll.

Fleming said, though, that \$3 million will not be enough to cover the payroll expenses for all employees and some people will eventually be let go.

She said she is working with the Department of Finance to obtain status reports on the last two quarters of the fiscal year and determine how much the government overspent. Initial numbers show the government overspent by \$4.5 million during the first quarter of FY 2009 and \$2 million to \$3 million last quarter, for a total of \$6.5 million to \$7.5 million.

"We wanted to get a real idea of the spending trend, especially for this last quarter to determine exactly where the shortfalls are going to be," Fleming said, adding that she had hoped the Legislature would pass austerity

measures like unpaid holidays and austerity Fridays.

"Basically, we were hoping to have it across the board, that would include the autonomous and other government agencies, across the board with civil service employees," she said. "I think that would alleviate a lot more of our shortfall for FY 09."

The CNMI is expected to receive \$43 million under the stabilization portion of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

The Medical Referral Office referred 716 patients to offisland medical providers in FY 2008, a 27-percent increase from only 565 patients in FY 2007.

As expected, medical referral spending also increased from close to \$4 million in FY 2007 to about \$5 million in FY 2008.

CPA: Leases to be affected by seaport investment

By MONETH G. DEPOSA Moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com REPORTER

The Commonwealth Ports Authority is looking at lease agreements that may be affected by the multimillion-dollar investment being proposed at its Lower Base seaport property.

Although there is no final

ecutive director Efrain F. Camacho said yesterday the agency is looking for alternative ways to help those who may be displaced by the move.

Allegiance Capital Corp. has proposed a \$100-million investment at the Saipan port in relation to its project with the

proposal involves the relocation of all buildings and companies in the area, including the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s power plant 1.

"There are no developments on Allegiance Corp. [as of today] other than CPA is working on the leases that may be

lease agreement yet, CPA ex- military. However, the project impacted should the proposed all these concessionaires would project goes through," Camacho said.

> Saipan Tribune learned that a 25-year lease agreement is be-

ing drafted between the company and the CNMI government.

Based on the proposal, the whole drydock area will be used for big vessels that are expected to arrive all at the same time Camacho in the lease area. The project was reportedly approved

by the military. The whole seaplane ramp

area in Lower Base currently hosts a submarine station, a restaurant, a holding area for Tinian boats, and a few other tenants. Once the Allegiance Capital agreement is finalized,

need to be relocated to other ports authority properties.

In the case of the power plant, the agreement will take place

between the administration and the Allegiance Capital Corp.

Camacho CPA will need to make arrangements for the leases that are in good standing. "They will need to be moved," he told

Saipan Tribune.

Saying the project is still in its infancy, the CPA official noted that the prudent thing to do now is to "allow the early stage development to move forward."

Camacho said the agency is now evaluating several sites for relocation but refused to

elaborate when pressed. "CPA is evaluating several sites but is not prepare to disclose that at this moment," he said.

It was earlier disclosed that the cost of relocating all affected entities would be shouldered by Allegiance Capital, including the CUC power plant.

If the project pushes through, it will be one of the biggest investments so far infused at the Saipan port.

Once the lease is signed, the processing of local and federal permits is expected within two years.

About 8,000 Marines will be transferred from Okinawa, Japan, to Guam starting in 2012. The CNMI is expected to benefit economically from the plan as a portion of Tinian will be used for military training exercises.



IN BLOOM

The majestic flame trees light up Saipan between April and June. True to its name, the tree in bloom looks like its on fire when seen from a distance. The Annual Flame Tree Arts Festival, which will be held this year from April 23 to 26, celebrates not only the natural beauty of the islands but also promotes local artists and their artwork.

2 airlines oppose NMI's air expansion petition

By KRISTI EATON

REPORTER

Two U.S. air carriers—Delta Airlines and United Airlines have opposed the CNMI's petition with the U.S. Department of Transportation to grant Japanese and Chinese airlines unilateral access to the CNMI.

Both carriers did not object to eliminating restrictions for Australia airlines but did object to access for Chinese and Japanese carriers.

"The right to serve points in the CNMI, particularly Saipan, is of sufficient value to carriers of both countries that their respective governments negotiated specific terms regarding service to the Commonwealth," United Airlines stated.

However, the CNMI government in its reply motion said

neither airline took into consideration the Covenant agreement between the Northern Marianas and the U.S. government, specifically: "[t]he Government of the United States will give sympathetic consideration to the views of the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands on international matters directly affecting the Northern Mariana Islands," acting Attorney General Gregory Baka wrote, adding economic obligations for the CNMI were also not considered.

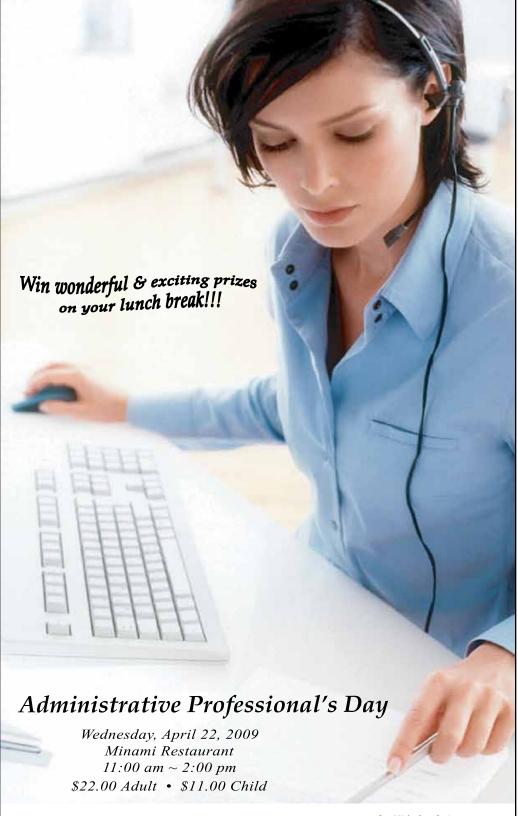
Baka noted that United has not served the CNMI since its Osaka-Saipan service ran from approximately 1994 to 1996.

The Covenant Sections 603(d), 701, and 904 make the CNMI's case stronger than other similar locations and situations, Baka said.

"Yet the essential point is that this is not a reward for foreign carriers, but an incentive to serve geographically-disadvantaged isolated communities lacking external land-based transportation," he added.

In the original petition, Baka noted that compared to Guam, the CNMI faces more challenging economic circumstances due to the loss of the garment industry; lack of a U.S. military presence; lower level air service; a greater loss of tourism revenues; and infrastructure shortfalls.

Baka also pointed out the Covenant agreement between the CNMI and the United States requires the U.S to encourage foreign countries to treat the Commonwealth as a developing country, with respect to exports and trade.



Zoning Office to hire inspectors

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com REPORTER

The Saipan Zoning Office will be hiring full-time inspectors to ensure that establishments comply with the Saipan zoning law.

Henry H. Hofschneider. chairman of the Zoning Board, said the Zoning office currently has two FTEs who can perform inspections.

But he said acting zoning administrator Therese Ogomuro is in the process of meeting with prospective candidates for zoning officer positions.

"The Zoning board is ready to support Ms. Ogomuro when she is ready to hire two FTEs," Hofschneider told Saipan Tribune.

He added that the CNMI Zoning Code gave the zoning administrator the power to hire and fire staff, while the Zoning board has the power to hire, as well as fire, the administrator.

Last month, an employee of the Saipan Zoning Office— Jeffrey Dela Cruz of Papago—was arrested for allegedly soliciting a \$200 bribe from a

businessman in exchange for not citing his business due to noncompliance with zoning rules on banner signs.

The Zoning Office is also hiring a replacement for administrator Steve Tilley, who resigned recently to relocate to the U.S. mainland. In his six years on Saipan, Tilley was instrumental in the drafting and implementation of the zoning law, as well as in implementing the regulations.

Hofschneider added that no board member has been named yet to fill the seventh and only vacant slot on the Zoning board.

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First phase in Fund's lawsuit begins

The phase one hearing began yesterday in the Retirement Fund's lawsuit over the government's failure to remit required employer contributions.

The Fund's counsel, Viola Alepuyo, presented to the witness stand Fund administrator Mark Aguon.

testimony today, Tuesday, at 1:30pm before Superior Court associate judge Kenneth Govendo.

Alepuyo was with Fund board chair Juan T. Guerrero during the proceeding. Assistant attorney general Antho-

Aguon is expected to resume his ny Welch came with Finance Secretary Eloy Inos.

Several retirees also watched the

The phase one hearing is intended to allow the Fund to show the actual dam-

The second phase, which is set for June 8, will allow the Fund to bring in experts to show just how much the Fund has lost because of the unpaid contributions and the loss of possible

The Fund filed the lawsuit against the government, Gov. Benigno Fitial, Department of Finance, and Finance

ernment's failure to remit the required employer contributions.

In November 2008, Govendo granted the Fund's request for default judgment after the government, through the Attorney General's Office, waited nearly two years to answer the complaint.

The sole issue remaining in the case is to determine the amount of damages owed the Fund. (Ferdie de la Torre)

ART

From Page 1

Micronesian Flame Tree Arts Festival.

"The Art Village project was conceptualized two years ago. It is part of the department's master plan for 2009. However, this did not push through until we got the approval from the DPL. This community project is approved in the Susupe area for five years," Celes said.

The use of the new site in Susupe is free of charge and is expected to be completed on Thursday, in time for the opening of this year's Flame Tree Arts Festival.

Celes said the Art Village will permanently host the Center for the Performing and Indigenous Arts, CPIA.

After the four-day Flame Tree Arts Festival, Celes said the Art Village will remain open every Saturday from 6am

Local artists are encouraged to use the venue to sell, showcase, and promote their art—visual, performing, crafts, etc.

DCCA has allocated \$16,000 as initial funding for the program. The money is from a grant by the National Endowment for the Arts.

"The objective is to help local artists by hosting a venue for their crafts and performances without any cost to them. The \$16,000 serves as the initial and revolving fund for the project until these artists establish themselves at the village and can afford to pay for a spot at the place," Celes explained.

Secretary Inos in 2006 over the govages owed the Fund.



She said DCCA may charge between \$45 to \$50 per station for the center's use in the future.

Susupe Civic Center also hosts the farmers' Sabalu Market during week-

The inclusion of the Art Village in this year's Flame Tree Arts Festival celebration is expected to boost the morale of local talents.

Every year, the CNMI Gallery for Arts and Culture on Capital Hill hosts a number of exhibits to help the island's artists. However, the success of these events are limited due to the site's remoteness.

In the past, DCCA tried bringing exhibits to the main district of Garapan by having hotels host them but the response has been lukewarm

The government, through the Carolinian Affairs Office, also administers the Chamolinian Village in Garapan. The site is used to host a number of cultural activities.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

FAMILY

From Page 1

Buendia said a Coast Guard C-130 plane from Honolulu has been requested and will join the search today, Tuesday.

CNMI Department of Public Safety spokesperson Eric David told Saipan Tribune yesterday that DPS Boating Safety officers are on standby if their assistance is needed.

Those reported missing are Ray Quichocho, his wife, son, and daughter. Ray Quichocho is confirmed as not the Saipan lawyer.

The U.S. Coast Guard said the CNMI Emergency Management Office first notified the Rescue Sub-Center Guam that the operator of the boat, Quichocho, had called Saturday evening using a cellular phone to report that he and his family were traveling from Guam to Rota on their catamaran.

Quichocho reported that they were about 10 miles from Two Lovers Point and that one of the two engines had failed, and they were encountering big waves.

Quichocho ended the call before EMO could gather any additional information, according to the Coast Guard.

The U.S. Coast Guard started the search and rescue operation Saturday night by dispatching a boat from the Guard Station Apra Harbor. Sunday afternoon, a helicopter from the U.S. Navy Sea Combat Squadron Two Five conducted an aerial search.

CARS

From Page 1

investigators have concluded that the fire at the Motion Automotive Repair shop's junkyard was arson-related.

David said investigators did not release more details as the case is pending further investigation.

The Fire Division is seeking the community's help in providing any information that will help them identify those who started the fire.

David said an unidentified person called 911 on Friday at 2:51pm to report a car fire.

A police officer responded to the Motion Automotive Repair Shop and found several vehicles on fire.

The officer closed off the main second road leading toward the shop and called for backup.

Fire and rescue personnel arrived and began putting out the fire. Residents surrounding the shop were safely evacuated. No one was report-

Firefighters, with the help of the Airport Rescue Firefighters, managed to kill the blaze at 3pm that day.

Preliminary investigation showed that at 2:30pm, auto shop workers noticed fire and smoke coming from the southern corner of the lot where piles of cars were located.

The workers told their employer, Renato Batallones, about the fire. Batallones instructed one of the employees

to call the police.

Batallones told investigators the flames were getting closer to his shop so he ordered his employees to move and secure all equipment to a safer location.

The fire caused minor explosions and sent a thick cloud of black smoke

This case brings to five the number of arson cases on Saipan in just two months.

On April 2, an unoccupied house in Kagman III was intentionally set on fire.

On March 14, a two-story building under renovation in Tanapag was intentionally burned by an unidentified person or persons.

On Feb. 16, an abandoned house in Kagman III Phase 1 was reportedly set on fire by unidentified person or persons.

On Feb. 5, an unoccupied house in Afetnas was reportedly intentionally burned by an unidentified person or persons.

As of yesterday, no one has been ar rested yet in the five arson cases.

WASC

From Page 1

The team, Saipan Tribune learned, will submit their recommendations to the commission, which is scheduled to give its verdict on the fate of the island's community college this June.

The commission placed NMC on continued show-cause status following noncompliance with two recommendations related to program review and assessment and its connection to the college's financing.

Amador and Myers are expected to

complete their final check today.

The April 1 report, NMC said, provides details and examples of the college's compliance with integrating planning, program review, and budgeting as well as institutionalizing the program review process.

To prepare for the team visit, NMC officials continued the work it initiated when the college was placed on showcause status in January 2008. These include linking, planning, program review, and resource allocation; institutionalizing a systematic program review process; developing, measuring, and analyzing student learning outcomes; en-

hancing employee evaluation processes; securing funding to address short- and long-term facilities needs; and building administrative capacity through the recruitment of highly qualified staff and the provision of recurring professional development opportunities.

During the two-day visit, the team is scheduled to meet with various individuals and groups at the campus including the Board of Regents, NMC president Dr. Carmen Fernandez, members of the management team, representatives of various departments, constituent groups like the staff senate, faculty senate, and the Associated Students of NMC.

The two are also expected to meet with NMC's shared governance groups like the college council, the Budget and Finance Committee, and the Planning, Program Review and Outcomes Assessment Committee, PROAC.

Fernandez said yesterday that until the team report is made public, representatives of the college will be unable to comment specifically and publicly on any discussions they had with the visiting team.

Saipan Tribune learned that the team's observations and findings will be submitted directly to the full membership of the commission where a de-

cision on NMC is expected to be made. Fernandez stressed that NMC remains accredited throughout the showcause period.

In the event NMC gets its full accreditation in June, the instructional sites on Rota and Tinian will remain closed to academic programs.

The president earlier said that until NMC is able to fully meet all accreditation standards, the possibility of reopening the two sites is deemed unrealistic due to funding concerns.

However, NMC will continue the process of evaluating the distance learning education for Rota and Tinian sites.

May Day rally set for improved immigration status | Kagman association

REPORTER

The United Workers Movement-NMI will lead a May Day rally to press the federal government to grant improved immigration status and a pathway to citizenship for foreign workers, immediate relatives of U.S. and Federated States of Micronesia citizens, and CNMI permanent residents.

May Day, which occurs on May 1, is synonymous with International Workers' Day or Labor Day, which celebrates the social and economic achievements of the labor movement.

Rabby Syed, president of the United Workers Movement-NMI, yesterday said rally participants will meet at the Garapan Fishing Base across the road from Kristo Rai Church at 6pm, followed by a march to the American Memorial Park.

"As workers, we must recognize and commemorate May Day not only for its historical significance but also as a time to organize about issues of vital importance to the working class, the people of today, in the CNMI," he said.

Syed said the purpose of holding the rally is to ask the federal government to grant a "permanent status for nonresidents, a pathway to citizenship to be included in the federal guest worker program, and a just transitional period that considers the circumstances and needs of the huge population of nonresidents."

"I am inviting everyone to participate, especially guest workers, IRs, FSM residents, CNMI permanent residents, U.S. citizen children of foreign parents and supporters of a just federal transition and guest worker program," Syed added.

Ronnie Doca, board chairman of the United Workers Movement-NMI, said the group is taking advantage of the 180-day delay in the start of transition to federal immigration system to ask the federal government to look into the plight of nonresidents in the CNMI.

Besides the United Workers Movement-NMI,



HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

United Workers Movement-NMI's Ronnie Doca and Rabby Syed, along with other members, pose for a group photo yesterday. Different groups of workers will be holding a "Saipan May Day Rally" on May 1 at the Garapan Fishing Base starting at 6pm to press for an improved immigration status for nonresidents in the CNMI.

the Pilipino Contract Workers Association or Pilcowa and the Human Dignity Movement, along with Filipinos, Chinese, Koreans, Nepalese, Bangladeshis and other nonresidents in the CNMI.

An organizational meeting will be held at the Kilili Pavilion in Susupe on April 25, Saturday, at 6:30pm. Syed said they welcome donations of materials or supply for the rally. He can be reached at 989-3306.

No consultation

The United Workers Movement-NMI is also taking issue with deputy labor secretary Cinta M. Kaipat's statement in the newspaper about the Department of Labor trying hard to work with the foreign worker groups and their representatives to minimize adverse impacts on workers and on

Syed said the United Workers Movement-NMI and leaders of other guest workers' groups want to know the workers groups that Kaipat has been trying to work with.

"The Department of Labor or Ms. Kaipat has not contacted us or talked to us...No consultation with us," said Doca, who is also president of the Pilipino Contract Workers Association or Pilcowa.

In a statement, the United Workers Movement-NMI said the Fitial administration "cannot promote the best interest of the nonresident workers in the CNMI without the participation of the guest workers group.'

Earlier, the group said it will also ask the federal and local government to consider giving amnesty to overstayers who have not been paid their wages and other claims despite the awards granted them by the CNMI Department of Labor.

to host sunrise meeting

The Kagman Komunidat Association is hosting a CNMI Sunset Meeting at the Kagman Community Center tomorrow, April 22, 2009, at 7pm.

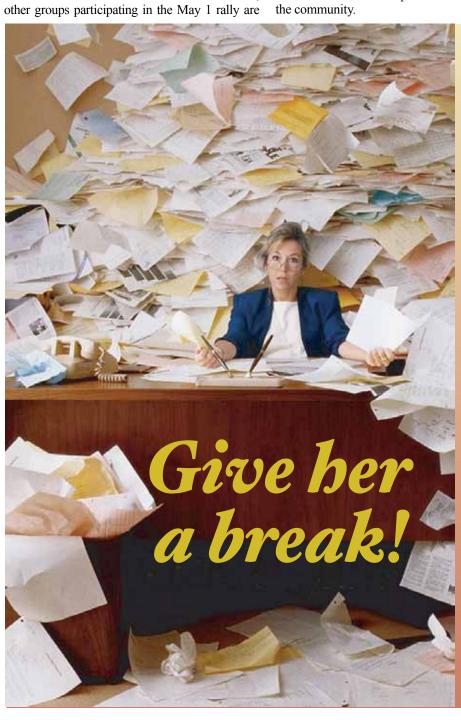
Like numerous other CNMI sunrise and sunset meetings held recently throughout the community, the purpose of Kagman Sunset Meeting is to bring together concerned CNMI residents to help develop a long-term vision for the community, identify promising and viable candidates for public office who share that vision, and begin mobilizing the resources and support that will be needed to bring about honest, open, and responsive government that serves the best interests and highest aspirations of all the people of the Commonwealth.

The upcoming Kagman sunset meeting will be guided by seven questions covering what the role of government should be, the most important opportunities and challenges facing the CNMI, priority government reforms, the most effective ways for concerned citizens to organize, what life in the CNMI should be like 10 years from today, and the names of potential candidates. Other topics and questions may also be considered at this gathering.

The Kagman Sunset Meeting is open to the public. All are welcome to join the conversation, and those who cannot stay for the entire hour are also welcome to submit their written responses to the survey. Responses from all the sunrise and sunset meetings will be compiled and presented at a public forum to be announced at a later time.

For more information about the Kagman Sunset Meeting, contact Jesse Torres at kagmankomunidatassociation@gmail.com or Tina Sablan at 285-3935 or tinasablan@gmail.com.

For general information about the CNMI sunrise/sunset meetings, or to find out how to host one of your own, contact Tina Sablan at 285-3935 or tinasablan@gmail.com. (PR)





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STRICTER PENALTIES SOUGHT

75 percent of high school students drink alcohol

BY MONETH G. DEPOSA

Moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com

About 70 percent of high school students and 53 percent of middle school students in the CNMI have had at least one drink of alcohol, based on a recent Youth Risk Behavior Survey by the Public School system.

This trend, which Youth Congress Speaker Alana May Leon Guerrero described as "alarming," has prompted the youth lawmaker to propose a bill that calls for stricter and harsher penalties for minors found violating the law.

Leon Guerrero is scheduled to introduce the bill during an upcoming regular session.

Although there are established laws to prevent minors from consuming alcohol, she said the existing penalties need to be strengthened to discourage minors from drinking alcohol and deter persons from providing alcohol to minors.

She believes that penalties for tobacco use by minors are far more stringent than that of alcohol consumption.

Legislation passed by the Youth Congress are not legal laws but are deemed strong suggestions for House lawmakers to formally draft related bills.

Leon Guerrero wants the fine increased from \$100 to \$1,000 for those found serving alcohol to minors and suggests imprisonment of not more than a year, instead of the current law's 90-day term. She also recommends 300 hours of community service.

The youth speaker also recommends that establishments be barred from employing ser-

LARIZEL THERESE FOJAS-GRANADA PMB 9 EPS Caller Box 10012 Saipan, MP 96950 Telephone: (670) 234-0560 e (670) 234-0560 ext 104 (670) 789-8133 IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS LARIZEL THERESE F. GRANADA, FCD DI-Civil

Action No. 09-0175 Petitioner. ORDER TO APPEAR AND PLEAD ALVIN SAN MIGUEL GRANADA.

UPON CONSIDERATION OF THE MOTION by the Petitioner for an Order of this Court requiring Respondent to answer or otherwise plead herein and permitting services to be made by mail, return receipt requested, postage prepaid under 7 CMC Sections 1301 and 1302:

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, that the

Respondent shall be served by mail, return receipt requested, postage paid, by the Petitioner with the Petition for Divorce, Summons and this Order at his present address at: 2101 JUAN LUNA ST., TONDO MANILA, PHILIPPINES 1012.

MANILA, PHILIPPINES 1012.

The Respond is further ORDERED to answer the Petition or otherwise plead in this action within thirty (30) days of the date of service of the Petition, Summons and this Order. If Respondent fails to answer, respondent or otherwise plead as ordered herein, Judgment by Default may be entered against Respondent.

against Respondent.

This Order shall be posted on the public board at the Clerk's Office for a period not less than two weeks.

ENTERED this 19th day of March 2009

/s/ Kenneth L. Govendo

vice crews or those serving or mixing alcohol if they are not more than 21 years of age, instead of the current requirement of 18 years old.

According to Leon Guerrero, those serving alcohol to minors should be subjected to a \$1,000 fine, one-year imprisonment and 300 hours of community service for a first offense; \$3,000 fine, imprisonment of not more than 3 years, plus 300 hours of community service for a second offense; and \$5,000 fine, five years imprisonment and 500 hours of community service for a third offense.

For minors purchasing or consuming alcoholic beverages, a one-year imprisonment and 350 hours of community service plus a workshop on substance abuse are recommended.

'Youths drink alcohol for fun'

The youth speaker, who is a student at Marianas High School, disclosed that peers often drink alcohol for fun.

"As a high school student and active youth in our community, I've spoken to many of my peers on the issue. Many say they drink because it's fun, a reason to hang out with friends, a way to relax and it tastes good," Leon Guerrero said yesterday.

Whatever the reason, she said it is wrong to consume alcohol at a young age.

"There are many good reasons why alcohol is for adult consumption, and be that as it may, there are adults who act irresponsibly when they consume alcohol," she said.

It has been Leon Guerrero's goal to pass legislation addressing this issue. She recalled the many proposals neglected in the previous legislatures. She hopes to see this year the passage of the first amendments to the alcohol law.

Leon Guerrero admits this may result in her "unpopularity" among her peers. "But I stand ready...to defend my action and position. As an elected youth leader, I swore to look out for the best interest of the youth community in the Commonwealth," she said.

During the recent Micronesian Youth Services Conference held on the island, the CNMI reported 58 cases of underage drinking during the calendar year 2008. These offenses are considered not the usual underage-drinking violations but usually accompanied with assault with dangerous weapons, assault and battery, disturbing the peace, and curfew violations.

Of the 58 violators last year, 49 were males and 9 were females-all of various ethnicities. There were three minors who were caught driving under influence of drugs and alcohol, number of arrests involving mi- alcohol reached 445 in 2003; as well as reckless driving. The nors that were found consuming 226 in 2007; and 347 in 2008.



ARTS FESTIVAL PREPS

A man decorates the stage for the 28th Flame Tree Arts Festival in Susupe yesterday. The CNMI's biggest cultural event will be held from April 23 to 26.

FY 2010 budget in Ways and Means discussion

By KRISTI EATON

Kristi eaton@saipantribune.com

The House Ways and Means Committee is expected to meet this week to discuss the Fitial administration's Fiscal Year 2010 budget proposal, including addressing some concerns relating to stimulus funds.

The members will meet to see if they agree with the projections made by Secretary of Finance Eloy Inos, said Rep. Ray Yumul, chairman of the Ways and Means Committee.

In the April 1 budget proposal, Inos said the Department of Finance estimates gross budgetary resources to reach \$162.82 million in Fiscal Year 2010, which runs from Oct. 1, 2009, to Sept. 30, 2010.

However, some \$4.65 million of this amount is earmarked for tobacco control, solid waste management, and Common- proposal, then the Legislature ning Nov. 28. This will mean a wealth Utilities Corp.'s debt to MPLT. In addition, \$7.67 million will go to payment of debts.

The FY 2010 revenue estimate represents a net increase of \$2.416 million or 1.6 percent over the current mid-fiscal year

The total operating budget is \$159.06 million. Of that, \$8.56 million will come from non-general fund resources, like Compact Impact funds and expense transfers to certain special and revolving funds. The remaining balance of \$150.5 million will be funded through appropriations from the general fund.

'We have to go in and look at the foundation, the Secretary of Finance's rationale. Why he believes \$150 [million] is collected and therefore expended for 2010," Yumul said.

If everyone agrees with the

sets limits on expenditures by passing a House concurrent resolution by July 1. By Sept. 1, the Legislature completes action by introducing and passing a budget bill, setting the spending ceiling.

The FY 2010 budget is a slight increase over the FY 2009 budget because the administrafrom the U.S. economic stimulus funds

In the budget proposal, the administration estimated the CNMI's general fund will see an additional \$15 million from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, which will help offset the loss of fees related to Public Law 110-229. The Consolidated Natural Resources Act of 2008 extends U.S. immigrations laws to the CNMI begin-their allocation," he added.

loss of \$7.6 million in labor and immigration fees and \$6.1 million in one-time transfers, for a total of \$13.7 million.

Yumul said he is concerned about allocating the \$15 million when much of the stimulus funds have not yet been re-

"What if the stimulus doesn't tion is anticipating a small boost come in? What if there are delays?" the chairman asked, adding that there is also the possibility the CNMI may not comply with the grant terms and would be forced to return money that is already allocated.

> Another important thing to consider is the Retirement Fund, Yumul said.

"Retirement is still on the top of my list, ensuring that is must be funded. They must receive

Room D-1

Room D-1

English and Math placement tests set

The Northern Marianas College will be conducting English and Math placement tests on the following dates:

1pm - 4pm

English Placement Tests: April 28 Tuesday

May 21

Thursday

April 29	Wednesday	5pm - 8pm	Room D-1
May 14	Thursday	1pm - 4pm	Room D-1
•	-	5pm - 8pm	Room D-1
Math Pla	cement Tests:		
May 19	Tuesday	10am - 12pm	Room D-1
•	-	5pm - 7pm	Room D-1

Those who wish to take the test must bring a valid photo ID (driver's license, passport or school ID) and pencils. No admittance to the testing room will be allowed after the starting time.

10am - 12pm

There is a \$25 fee each for the English and Math Placement Tests that must be paid in advance at the NMC Cashier (Monday-Friday, 9am - 4pm). No one will be allowed into the testing room without proof of payment—a receipt for either the placement test fee or the NMC application fee. Payment for the application fee will cover the English placement test fee.

If you have any questions about the English Placement Test, call Mark Haag at the Languages & Humanities Department at (670) 234-5498 Ext. 2017 or Mona Camacho at Ext. 1242.

If you have any questions about the Math Placement Test, call Glenn Keaton at the Sciences, Mathematics, Health, & Athletics Department at (670) 234-5498 ext. 1200 or Hera Ogo at Ext. 1212. (PR)

Learn how to do business with federal govt

Island companies that want to do business with some branch or another of the federal government are being encouraged available for brief one-on-one to attend a Saipan Chamber of meetings with any interested Commerce-sponsored seminar individuals. that will be held tomorrow, April 22, at the Pacific Islands Club.

The half-day workshop will feature representatives of the U.S. Small Business Administration, the U.S. General Services Administration, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture-Rural Development.

It will focus on how to do business with the federal government and how to obtain capital through the SBA's lending program. This workshop will be of interest to all who are planning to capitalize on the military buildup in Guam.

In the afternoon, following the workshop, the representatives of the federal agencies will be

Some of the specific topics that will be covered are:

- Learning about potential federal customers;
- Using FedBizOpps.gov (www.fbo.gov), which connects commercial vendors with government buyers;
- Obtaining a Taxpayer Identification Number;
- Understanding Past Performance Evaluations;
- Obtaining a DUNS num-■ Registering with the Cen-
- tral Contractor Registration; ■ Obtaining a Small Busi-

ness Certification;

- Completing the Online Representations and Certifications Application; Business and Industry
- Guaranteed Loan Program: Loan guarantees on eligible projects up to \$25 million; and
- Rural Energy for America Program: Grants and loan guarantees for small businesses in support of renewable energy and energy efficient technologies/

The workshop will be held at the Charley's Cabaret of the PIC and will begin at 8am. The meeting is \$25 for Chamber members and \$35 for nonmembers, which includes lunch at PIC's Magellan dining room.

Call the Chamber office now-(670)233-7150 or fax (670)233-7151—to make reservations. (SCC)

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Kagman High PTSA meeting today

Attention parents and guardians of Kagman High School students: There will be a PTSA meeting today, April 21, from 6pm to 7pm, at the Kagman High School cafeteria. The meeting will also be held via video teleconferencing for all parents, guardians, staff and students from the northern side of the island. Parents from Marpi, As Matuis, San Roque, Tanapag, and Sadog Tasi can go to Tanapag Elementary School to attend the meeting. For more information, call us at 237-3840 or 237-3832, or fax 664-3788. (*PR*)

MHS Class of 1999 reunion meeting

The Marianas High School Class of 1999 will have a meeting on Tuesday, April 21, 2009, 5:30pm at the Minatchom Atdao Pavillion in Kilili Beach, to discuss reunion plans and the selection of committees. Contact person: Francis Mendiola 287-6700 or e-mail at iskovalski@gmail.com. (*PR*)

Memorial Day meeting today

May 25, 2009 is Memorial Day and the Commonwealth will be paying tribute to members of the U.S. Armed Forces who have passed away. All Memorial Day Committee members and anyone interested in being a part of the committee are being informed that the committee will be meeting today, Tuesday, at 9am, at the Office of Military and Veterans Affairs on Capital Hill building 1364. Everyone is encouraged and invited to attend. (*PR*)

NMC Charter Day competitions briefing and preliminary dates set

In anticipation of NMC's Charter Day on May 8, the Charter Day Entertainment Committee will be conducting briefings and auditions/rehearsals for various competitions and events, which include Marianas Idol, Battle of the Bands and CNMI's Best Dance Crew. Individuals interested in competing in the upcoming Charter Day competitions are strongly encouraged to attend the pre-competition briefings on the following dates:

- April 23, 2009 for Marianas Idol (5pm at the Student Center in Bldg. J)
- April 24, 2009 for Battle of the Bands (5pm at the Student Center in Bldg. J)
- April 25, 2009 for CNMI's Best Dance Crew (10am at the Student Center in Bldg. J)

The scoring rubric and other regulations will be discussed. The NMC Charter Day Entertainment Committee will also be holding auditions/rehearsals on the following days:

- May 4, 2009 for Marianas Idol (5pm 8pm in Room D-1)
- May 5, 2009 for CNMI's Best Dance Crew (5pm 8pm in Room D-1)
- May 6, 2009 for Battle of the Bands (5pm 8pm in Room D-1) For more information, contact Ivan Mereb at 234-5498 ext 1251, e-mail ivanm@nmcnet.edu, or log on to www.nmcnet.edu. Applications are available the NMC Student Center in Building J of the College's As Terlaje campus. (NMC)

Briefing for Purple Heart recipients

This is to invite all Purple Heart recipients and their dependents for an information/ briefing by Jack Shimuzu, commander of the Military Order of the Purple Heart, Pacific Areas. The briefing will be on April 23, 2009, starting 8am, at the Office of Military and Veterans Affairs, building 1364 Capital Hill. He will be available all day until 3pm.

For any questions or for further information, call Ruth Coleman at the Office of Military and Veterans Affairs at 664-2650. (PR)

Military ID card personnel to visit Saipan

This is to let all military identification cardholders and all concerned that the 9th Mission Support Command ID Card personnel will be on Saipan to issue new or renewal of military ID cards. They will be at the Army Reserve Center on Saipan from May 18 to 22, 2009. Their hours are from 8am-6pm. For any questions or for further information, call Ruth Coleman at the Office of Military and Veterans Affairs at 664-2650 or Maj. Greg Sablan at the Army Reserve Center at 322-6671. (*PR*)

Football group to hold referee course

The Northern Marianas Island Football Association will conduct a EAFF Referee 3 Certification Course on May 1-3 and May 8-9, 2009, for all interested individuals ages 16 and older (trained, experienced referees ages 14-15 also welcomed). To register, call NMIFA at 235-0173. (PR)

NMC Career Fair to showcase employment opportunities

High school and college students are invited to the Northern Marianas College's Career Center's Career Fair on Thursday, April 23, which will showcase the various employment opportunities in the CNMI. The Fair, which is part of the college's celebration of Career Discovery Month, will be held between Building W and V at NMC and will run from 10am to 12pm.

In addition to the Fair, the college also facilitated Career Development Workshops, which focused on Resume Building, Self-Em-

ployment, and Interviewing Techniques & Etiquette. The Self-Employment Workshop featured a presentation from Walt Goodrich, author of the Saipan Tribune special "The Saipanpreneur Project."

For more information about the Career Fair, contact Heather Santos or Lulu Wang at 234-5498 ext. 1348/1, e-mail heathers@nmcnet.edu or luluw@nmcnet.edu, or log on to www.nmcnet.edu. *(NMC)*

SSHS report card day set

To all parents/ legal guardians of Saipan Southern High School students: Report cards will be issued from 4pm to 7pm in the counseling office on April 22, 2009. All students will be dismissed at 1pm. There will be a PTA meeting on the same day at 6pm in the evening in the cafeteria. (*PR*)

An invitation to candidates

The Kagman Komunidat Association would like to invite political candidates for Governor, Senator, and Precinct 5 Representative to meet with Precinct 5 voters. Village meetings will take place at the Kagman Community Center and voters will get the chance to meet with candidates and ask questions. Interested candidates can email kagmankomunidatassociation@gmail.com. (PR)

Live fire releases on Farallon today

The U.S. military will be conducting live fire releases (13 EBS) on the island of Farallon de Mendenilla today, April 21, 2009, from 1pm to 7pm.

The location of this activity will be on the island of Farallon de Mendenilla training area (R7201) on a 10 nautical mile radius on all quadrants.

Due to the danger imposed by this activity, the Emergency Management Office is strongly advising the public—especially fishermen, commercial pilots and marine tour operators—to stay away from this area during the time and date indicated.

For more information, contact the EMO Operations Section at telephone numbers 322-9528 and 322-9529, VHF MARINE CHNL 16, and HF Single Side Band Radio on 5.205.0. (*EMO*)

John Gonzales Live schedule in April

April 22, 2009 LIVE @ 7-8 pm – Replays 4/26 and 4/27 @ 7-8 pm
■ Parents and service providers discuss living with autism in the CNMI

April 29, 2009 LIVE – Replays 5/3 and 5/4 @ 7-8 pm

- Current Issues with the Family Court
- Guest: Associate Judge Kenneth Govendo, CNMI Superior Court Shows air on KSPN Channel 2; LIVE Text: 285-META; LIVE Call: 287-4230; E-mail: johngonzales@pticom.com. (*PR*)

OPA to visit Rota, Tinian

Staff of the Office of the Public Auditor will be on Rota on Thursday, April 23, 2009, and on Tinian on Friday, April 24, 2009, to notarize and accept last-minute filings of financial disclosure statements from government officials. Filers on Rota may visit the Rota Mayor's Office from 11am to 3:30pm on April 23. Filers on Tinian may visit the Tinian Casino Gaming Control Commission conference room from 9am to 4:30pm on April 24. All filers are reminded

to bring with them some form of photo identification, such as a driver's license or a passport. Failure to do so may result in the denial of notary services. For any inquiries or comments, contact OPA at 322-6481 or 6482. (**PR**)

Marianas High School schedule

April 27-May 1 SAT10 test (grade 9 and 11) May 4-15 Advanced Placement Exams

May 18-22 PSS SBA Tests

May 25 No classes (Memorial Day)
June 11 Graduation Ceremony
June 15 End of 4th Quarter

For questions and concerns, contact 237-3206. (PR)

PAWS sets public meeting

PAWS is having a no-host meeting at Coffee Care on April 30. The meeting is open to the public. All those interested in volunteering for PAWS and saving the non-profit organization are encouraged to attend the meeting. RSVP to Bobbi Grizzard no later than April 29 at bgrizzard@saipan.com or call 483-9464. Alternatively, you may contact 285-PAWS. (*PR*)

Student applicants sought for Korean trip

Applications are being accepted from students between the age of 9 to 12 who are interested to participate in the upcoming JCI Student Exchange Program to be held in Seoul, Korea, from May 11 to 16, 2009. Anyone interested may come to the Saipan Mayor's Office and pick up an application form, Monday to Friday, from 7:30am to 11:30am and from 12:30pm to 4pm. For more information, call Jemalyn Tenorio at 234-6208 or 6280. (*PR*)

Financial aid for power bill payments

Funds under the Mayor's Utility Assistance Program are now available to help qualified residents pay for one month of their power bill. This is a federally funded program available to residents of the Saipan who are unable to pay for their power bills with the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. All residents whose power bill is under their name are eligible to apply. Application forms can be picked up at the Saipan Mayor's Office in Afetnas Square in San Antonio during regular working hours, Monday to Friday, between 7:30am to 11am and 12:30pm to 4pm. For more information, call Carmen C. Maratita or Katherine P. Terry at 234-6280 or 6208. *(PR)*

KagES April calendar of events

April 27-May 1 SAT 10 Assessment for 3rd and 5th grade students

Quarterly tax return deadline

The Division of Revenue and Taxation wishes to remind all CNMI residents that the 2009 1st Quarter deadline for filing the quarterly tax returns is Thursday, April 30, 2009. The Division of Revenue and Taxation will be open from 7:30am to 4:30pm on Thursday, April 30, 2009. The office of the Division of Revenue and Taxation is located at the Joeten Dandan Commercial Center. For more information, call 664-1000, 664-1043 Compliance Branch, or 664-1066 Collection Branch. *(PR)*





Abalone workshop prompts biz startup

Four farmers in Rota have recently decided to pool their resources to create a commercial abalone farm after attending a workshop conducted by the Northern Marianas College – Cooperative Research, Extension, and Education Service.

Facilitated by aquaculture specialist Michael Ogo, the "Grow-out Requirements for Abalone Production" was held earlier this month at the NMC Tatachog Campus on Rota.

There were14 participants who attended the workshop and learned about biology of abalone, feeding requirements, water quality management, system maintenance, and the economic of abalone farming.

According to Ogo, the workshop was highly successful. The farmers who attended and who have decided to pool their re-



The Northern Marianas College CREES is helping to breed abalone similar to the one pictured here. Abalone is an edible mollusk that is a highly priced delicacy in Asia; their shells are also used for buttons, inlays for furniture, musical instruments, and jewelry. (Photo from Wikipedia.)

sources are looking into negoti- Tatachog for their venture. ating with the Rota Municipality to lease idle aquaculture tanks in example of how NMC and

"The workshop is a good

CREES are transferring research-based knowledge that will ultimately help to develop large and small industries in the CNMI," said Tee Abraham, dean of the NMC Community Programs and Services.

Abalone is an edible mollusk that is a highly priced delicacy in Asia. They have been massproduced in China and Japan since the 1950s. A disease has reduced the Chinese abalone stock, thus giving chance for the CNMI to enter into this market.

In addition to their use as food, the abalone's highly iridescent shells have traditionally been made into buttons, inlays for furniture, musical instruments, or jewelry. Pearls from abalone are popular in New Zealand and Australia and very expensive rarities. (NMC)

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

April 21, 2000

Hopwood woes still unresolved

The mediation board of the Public School System has failed to resolve the controversy hounding the island's lone government-run junior high school during a meeting earlier this week with the complaining teachers and Principal Lourdes Mendiola. The failure by the mediation board to address the unrest among Hopwood Junior High School teachers and administration officials forces the need for Board of Education members to convene to discuss ways to settle the dispute. During the meeting, Ms. Mendiola merely noted that her office is open for discussion with the protesting teachers as the petitioners read their letter of protest, urging the school principal's ouster from Hopwood Junior High School.

CUC braces for re-bidding of power project

At least the three top bidders on Saipan's new power plant will have the chance to bag the contract to build and operate the much delayed project under a plan to be presented to the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation board next week. Members of CUC's policymaking body have tentatively set its meeting on April 27, the first after Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio signed Public Law 12-1 which reinstated the original plan to install a plant with a capacity of up to 80 megawatts. The discussion in the forthcoming meeting will focus on possible steps that the government-owned utility corporation will undertake to deal with the change in the plan, according to CUC Board Chair Jesus T. Guerrero.

April 21, 2003

Company warned about compliance

Four pending renewal applications face a tough review at the Department of Labor and Immigration following findings that the applicants' employer has been in violation of the local preference law. DOLI hearing officer Jerry Cody said in a recent administrative order that Widwest Trading Corp. has not been employing full-time resident workers since May 2002. "The company has been out of compliance for the past 11 months and remains out of compliance as of this date," said Cody in his April 3 order. "The company appears to be in continuing violation with respect to these four existing nonresident employees."

Wright not yet president on college's website

Apparently, Northern Marianas College president Dr. Kenneth E. Wright has yet to be introduced to the college's website. Eight months after Wright assumed office as the college's new president, the institution's website has yet to be updated to reflect this change. In fact, it was only recently that the website removed the name of former NMC president Joaquin Sablan as president. Wright, in an interview Thursday, said he is aware of the situation.

April 21, 2004

One-two punch at the pump

Shell gas stations on Saipan increased their prices by 5 cents a gallon after midnight today, two days after their sole competitor in the CNMI—Mobil—increased pump prices at the same rate. As this developed, House Rep. Ray Yumul said he is looking at possibly introducing a measure that would cap gas prices in the CNMI. He said he would also consider reintroducing a divorcement measure that would prohibit gas suppliers from engaging in retail. Yumul said he is presently working with an economist, who would conduct a research partly to determine whether or not Shell and Mobil have engaged in price gouging Both Mobil and Shell have raised gas prices by a total of 22 cents in less then four months.

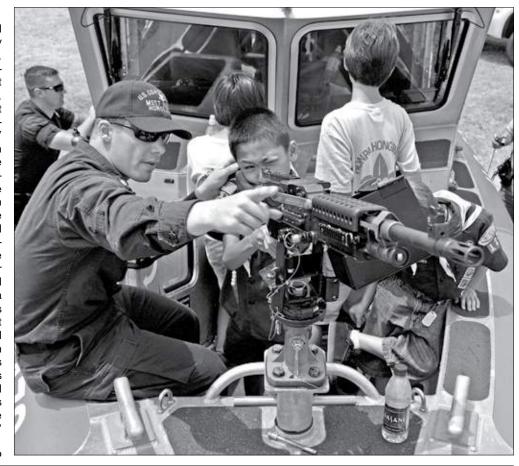
Airline says high fuel prices to eventually impact its air fares

The steady increase in the price of crude oil in the world market has started to exact a toll on the operations of the region's main air carrier and could ultimately have an impact on its fare structure. Continental Micronesia is keeping mum on whether the recent spate of fuel price increases would amount to an increase in its airfares any time soon. But Wally Dias, the airline's vice president for sales and marketing, said this is a possibility given the direct effect oil pricing has on any airline's operational costs. "Aviation fuel is a byproduct of crude oil and thus is impacted by the same forces increasing gasoline prices," said Dias in an email to the Saipan Tribune.

BOY SCOUTS FESTIVAL

U.S. Coast Guard Petty Officer 2nd Class Jarred Devito, a Maritime Safety and Security Team 91107 crew member, shows a Boy Scout the bow gun on a 25foot response boat during a troop meet in Sand Island State Recreation Park. Saturday, April 18, 2009. The Coast Guard and U.S. Marine Corps had several units on static display for the scouts' annual gathering. An air crew landed an HH-65 Dolphin rescue helicopter at the state park after a flight over from Air Station Barbers Point in Ewa Beach. The scouts were encouraged to see, touch and experience the "helo" and rescue boat. The MSST crew members, based in Honolulu Harbor, trailered the fullyequipped 25-foot response boat up the road for scouts to view. Scouts and their relatives got to experience what it would be like to be a bow gunner, holding a real M-249 machine gun. The scouts also learned what it takes to be a boat coxswain, a rescue helicopter pilot and rescue swimmer. Coast Guardsmen and Coast Guard Auxiliary volunteers answered questions and the scouts learned how missions are completed and even how the helicopters and boats work. By the end of the day, everyone got a turn to experience a "day in the life" of a Coast Guardsman.





Emergency signal helps US Coast Guard rescue mariner off Molokai



An air crew aboard a U.S. Coast Guard HH-65 Dolphin rescue helicopter was able to find a mariner on the overturned hull of his boat a quarter of a mile off Molokai's northwest coast because he'd activated his 406 MHz EPIRB.

HONOLULU—The U.S. Coast Guard on Friday rescued a mariner from an overturned fishing vessel after he activated his 406 MHz emergency beacon approximately a quarter of a mile from Molokai's northwest coast.

The Coast Guard's 24-hour emergency command center in Honolulu first received a signal from the fishing vessel Nalu Kea at 10:43am Friday, April 17. The signal was detected by satellite and initially provided no GPS position information.

The signal was registered and the Coast Guar d determined the vessel was underway with one person aboard on a weekend trip to Molokai. The next satellite pass provided a location approximately three miles off Ilio Point,

Molokai (the northwest corner of the island). A Coast Guard Auxiliary aircraft and an HH-65 Dolphin rescue helicopter crew from Air Station Barbers Point on Oahu were diverted to the scene. The HH-65 crew found the capsized Nalu Kea at 12:07 a.m. with one

The pilots of the HH-65 lowered a rescue swimmer into the water, who helped the mariner from the hull into a rescue basket. The rescued mariner was hoisted aboard the HH-65 and flown to Air Station Barbers Point.

person on the hull holding a red smoke flare.

"It's a great feeling being able to quickly respond in these situations and successfully rescue a mariner in distress," said Lt. Catharine Johann, one of the HH-65 pilots. "This guy was really prepared and had all the right gear -- a 406, flares and smoke. He made it real easy for us to find him."

Search and rescue controller Lt. Marvin Kimmel of the Coast Guard's command center in Honolulu said having the 406 MHz beacon properly registered made it easy to investigate the initial report and quickly launch assets.

The HH-65 crew reported the weather on scene to be "ideal" with light variable winds of five knots and seas of one to two feet. The mariner lives on Oahu and was picked up from the air station by his wife. (USCG)

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

TUESDAY, APRIL 21, 2009 9

Island Snapshots



CLEANUP DRIVE CONTRIBUTED PHO

Former governor Juan N. Babauta helps this child pick up trash during a cleanup held Saturday, April 18, as continuation of the Islandwide Cleanup held the day before throughout Saipan.



LIBDAY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

2009 Liberation Day committee members flank Saipan Mayor Juan B. Tudela after the overall committee was organized last week. Shown from left, overall chair Jack Omar; Lucy Aldan, vice chair for the Concession Committee; Sue Ellis, chairwoman for the Finance and Solicitation Committee; Angel Hocog, chairman for the Concession Committee; and Jack I. Guerrero, chairman for the Communications Committee. Not shown are Rose T. Ada, chairwoman for the Queens Committee; Saipan and Northern Islands councilor Felipe Q. Atalig, chairman for the Parade Committee; Joe Dlc. Tenorio, chairman for the Logistics Committee.

tee; and Ton A. Benavente, PIO and Public Relations. The committee is now searching for young single girls between 15 and 20 years old to compete for this year's Liberation Day queen. Anyone interested may call Rose Ada at 664-2286.



BIRTHDAY GIRL CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Belated happy birthday to Geradine DeDios, who celebrated her birthday on April
17. Greetings come from Papa, Mama and
family.



LITTER PATROL

Students, faculty and staff of the Northern Marianas College take time to pose for a group photo after picking up trash at As Terlaje Hill on the NMC campus. The NMC volunteers took a brief break from their work and studies to be part of the Islandwide Cleanup. The Islandwide Cleanup is an event that aims to encourage CNMI government and private sector agencies and offices to donate their time and effort to beautify the community.



SHEFA PRESENTATION

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Saipan Mayor Juan B. Tudela talks with Saipan Southern High School vice principal Craig Harrison last week after conducting a presentation for SSHS students, informing them about scholarship opportunities available from the Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance Program under the Office of the Mayor of Saipan. Next to Tudela are Chris and Bo Berry, students.



BANK OF GUAM TV COMMERCIAL WINNERS

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Bank of Guam announced the winners of its first TV commercial contest at the April 14, 2009, awards ceremony. First prize: "Giant Carabank" submitted by Tabitha Espina, Mary Ann Carlos, Desiree Smith and Martin Camacho (University of Guam); Second prize: "Little Girl Saving" submitted by Stephanie Caluag (Academy of Our Lady of Guam); Third prize: "Chamorro Translation" submitted by Daryl Herradura (Notre Dame High School); Bonus category (Image): "BOG Jingle" submitted by J. Rai Sablan (University of Guam); Honorable Mention: "Stop Motion" submitted by Jordan Hardy, Danny Bungcay, Merile Duran (University of Guam); "Life's Too Precious" submitted by Brian Muna (University of Guam); "Keep on Movin" submitted by DanDan Group (Life in the Sun Youth Group, CNMI). The contest produced 46 entries submitted by students in Guam and the CNMI. The competition was held from January 19 through March 31, and was open to high school and college and university students throughout Guam, the CNMI and neighboring islands. Cash prizes are \$2,000 for first prize, \$1,000 for Second Prize, and \$500 for Third Prize. A Bonus category has also been awarded at the \$500 level. Three Honorable Mention recognitions will be made and \$250 cash prizes will be awarded for those winners. From left, J. Rai Sablan, Tabitha Espina, Stephanie Caluag, Bank of Guam president and board chair Lou Leon Guerrero, Daryl Herradura, Jordan Hardy and Brian Muna.

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Opinion



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EDITORIAL

Iraq's wobbles

t's been only seven weeks since President Obama outlined a strategy for Iraq aimed at withdrawing most U.S. troops by the end of next summer. But already there is cause for concern. During the past month security around the country has been slipping: At least 37 people have been killed in four major attacks on security forces in the past week alone, and there have been multiple car bombings in Baghdad and other cities. Those strikes have been claimed by al-Qaida, which appears to be attempting a comeback. But there have also been new bursts of sectarian violence among Sunni and Shiite extremists.

Following successful local elections in January, Iraqi politicians are mired in backroom squabbling over the formation of provincial governments. The Shiite-led national government has made disturbing moves against some of the Sunni leaders who led the fight against al-Qaida. Hamstrung by the fall in oil prices, the government is having trouble meeting commitments to pay former insurgents or expand the security forces. Normally the U.S. ambassador would be deeply involved in trying to smooth over such problems, but there has been no ambassador in Baghdad since February.

It's not time to panic: U.S. commanders point out that overall, violence in Iraq is at its lowest level since the first year of the war. Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki, bolstered by the election outcome, remains strong and confident. But the administration needs to be alert to what is happening in Iraq—and ready to adjust political and military plans to prevent what could easily become a downward spiral.

One early decision point involves the withdrawal timetable, which calls for U.S. troops to leave all Iraqi cities by the end of June. That pullout is looking risky in a couple of places, including the northern city of Mosul, which has never been entirely cleansed of anti-government insurgents. The U.S. commander in the area told a Pentagon briefing last week that American troops could remain in the city if the Iraqi government requests it following an ongoing review; such flexibility should be extended to other areas, if necessary.

U.S. diplomats and commanders also need to make sure that Sunni leaders—already under renewed attack by al-Qaida—are treated fairly by the government. It's hard to tell from Washington whether recent arrests of some tribal leaders were justified or prudent; that's one reason why the administration's chosen ambassador, Christopher Hill, needs to get to Baghdad as soon as possible. He should be confirmed when Congress returns this week.

Mr. Hill's main focus, once he arrives, ought to be helping to ensure that Iraq's national elections, expected next January, go smoothly. Judging from January's results, elections may be the best way to defuse sectarian tensions and resolve disputes among feuding factions. Al-Qaida and other extremists will try to disrupt the democratic process, while Iran will seek to manipulate it. Though the new administration has minimized the promotion of democracy as a goal, both in Iraq and elsewhere, it offers perhaps the best means of enabling the troop withdrawal that Mr. Obama has promised for next year.

(c) 2009, The Washington Post



How is it charity if you're getting paid?

'Il take money from anyone. For years, I wrote articles for a magazine put out by Marlboro that was so insidious it was about healthy outdoor living and didn't allow me to mention smoking. I've written for Playboy. For all of college, I even took money from my parents. And I've heard that this newspaper is largely owned by Sam Zell.

But when the Anti-Defamation League, a Jewish charity, offered me \$500 to speak at a fundraiser in Las Vegas, I did not take their money. First of all, as anyone who has read my columns knows, I am clearly pro-defamation.

Also, although I don't think Jews believe in hell, I think they would create one for someone who took money from a charity to speak at a fundraiser.

So, although I did not take the cash, I'm pretty sure I cost them far more than \$500 when I mentioned in my speech that I had just had Al Jazeera come to my house to interview me. Once you do enough E! shows, you really can't justify turning anyone down. I can't wait to see "The 101 Hottest Jews Who Control the Media."

When I talked to the people who ran the Vegas charity, they informed me that almost everyone accepts the money. In fact, sometimes people who host events in their home charge the charity for their costs. I was expecting them to tell me that the people who receive charity charge to deposit the checks.

At first I feared this was another bad Bernard Madoff-type moment for the Jews. Then I made some calls and found out that nearly every charity pays celebrities to host their events. A church in my wife's tiny hometown of Hoosick Falls, N.Y., has paid several older actresses to show up at fundraisers. I was shocked, partly because famous people got paid to help others, and partly because people give more to their church if people who were in "Dynasty" were there. Thanks to a 2003 scandal involving an events promoter, we found out that Ray Charles, Gerald Ford, Bill Cosby, Natalie Cole and Paul Anka received tens of thousands of dollars for appearing at charity events. And it hasn't slowed down. I called a few charities and quickly got a dozen names of celebrities, some of whom had recently scored \$10,000 or more for showing up at fundraisers. At least one even demanded that his introduction make it sound like he was doing it for free. I briefly considered having my intro say I was paid \$100,000, to make me look a lot more important. I may listen to too much rap music.

When I called the celebrities' publicists, most didn't call me back.

By JOEL STEIN
Special to the Los Angeles Times



Others said they had no record of the events. Except Joan Rivers.

Rivers, who gives a lot of her money and time to her personal charities -- God's Love We Deliver, Guide Dogs for the Blind and Melissa Rivers -- thought I was an idiot for not knowing that this is how the fundraising circuit works.

"It's all very nice to do it for free, and then my accountant calls me and says, 'You can't go to Connecticut this year, you have to rent it," she said. "I always give a 'charity deduction,' because you feel so guilty. But you have to say, 'If they didn't have me, they wouldn't have filled the room." She also told me that if you write a best-seller, you can get in on this action straight away. Rivers is not wrong. I understand that paying stars can be a net gain for a charity. And I understand that lots of celebrities have their own causes they work for, for free. And I understand that the whole point of this column is to subtly lump me in with celebrities.

But I still think it's not fair for speakers to get both money and the goodwill of people who assume they showed up for free. It's wrong to advocate a cause and then suck money out of it. In fact, any of those words in any order is wrong.

So more charities are going to have to shame celebrities who ask for money. Copy the canceled checks. Post 'em on smokinggun. com. Give them to a reporter so he or she can write about it. Although, by now, we're desperate enough to try to cash them instead.

Doing this might mean fewer celebrities will show up, but I bet most of them will still do the events, and maybe for free, or at least with a hefty discount. Like Rivers, for instance, who is doing an event for the United Jewish Appeal this week. And she donates her paintings and items from her jewelry line to silent auctions. "I don't know how many poor people have a Joan Rivers painting from a silent auction," she told me.

The problem isn't greed, it's what we've all decided is acceptable. Although I sure am glad the ADL didn't offer me \$5,000.

The Saipan Tribune welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The Saipan Tribune reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, CIC Centre, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Letters to the Editor

Rebuttal to attack on Fund trustees: Jumping to erroneous conclusions

Second of three parts

The political season being what it is, I do feel that the Fund's board of trustees have been done an injustice as a result of comments that appeared in a recent Letter to the Editor published in this paper (Friday, April 17), titled: "The insolvency of the NMI Retirement Fund."

The comments which follow are offered as a clarification and an independent assessment of several issues that appeared in the above letter as considered from the point of view of an economist and one who has not been asked to reply on behalf of, or in defense of, the Fund's trustees.

Being a member I am interested in the long-term financial viability of the Fund and submit my opinion of the stewardship of Fund's operation in contrast to that of the writer of the above letter. In the vein of Nehru's observation, "it is right that we should encourage honest criticism and have as much public discussion of our problems as possible."

The various published accusations leveled at the Fund's trustees and my personal response to each follows—all of which are independent of Fund encouragement, endorsement or sanction. I alone bear the responsibility for the accuracy my comments and opinions.

Accusation or Question: "What has it done (i.e., the Fund) to help resolve, with finality, issues that should have been discussed in deliberative fashion over what's politically incorrect?"

Response: This statement relating to being "politically incorrect" doesn't make any sense to this reviewer. What does being "politically incorrect" have to do with the long-term financial security of the retirees?

The record of actions taken by the board and its chairman is replete with attempts to resolve this serious issue patiently and amicably with the only two bodies capable of solving the crisis and those are the central government and the Legislature which, only now—at 5 minutes until midnight—strive to shift the blame for crippling the Fund away from themselves to the trustees. It is nothing short of an outrageous diabolical and cynical attempt to deceive the members of the Fund as to where the real blame for the disastrous condition of the member's future retirement security actually and truly lies—with the government and the Legislature—and nowhere else.

Accusation or Statement: "As a member of the Fund, I know it is vital to unravel issues that have been sidestepped by the Fund as it promotes all the wrong information."

Response: Again, a distortion of facts deliberately designed to shift responsibility away from both irresponsible branches of the

government. The accusation is untrue and the writer should cite any proof in his possession that the "Fund promotes all wrong information." The only wrong information being promoted by government spokesmen is false, politically motivated distortion intentionally designed to deflect the real fault away from the administration and the Legislature.

Accusation or Question: "For instance, in the hiring of money managers, have trustees imposed accountability to this group of experts on investment recommendations that end up in losses by the millions of dollars?"

Response: The doubt expressed in the above statement cannot withstand critical scrutiny as the trustees adhere to the strict maintenance of the highest level of fiduciary responsibility. I have been assured that the trustees have put in place a mechanism where there is no tolerance for deviation on the part of all money managers.

This "watch list" mechanism serves to assure the trustees that the most prudent "best execution" practice is exercised. Should there be "findings" to the contrary the money managers would be "fired" and the trustees sued by this economist and other Fund members in a class action. Believe me, the trustees know that.

Accusation or Question: "Have trustees diligently looked into this vital aspect involving failed investments?"

Response: Of course they have—it's their fiduciary responsibility. However, recent events concerning well publicized losses in the stock market and other investments are now well known to have been a result in part of inadequate federal government regulation, inept politicians, greedy bankers and financiers. The condition of the money markets are aired daily on CNN.

Accusation: "It is obvious that trustees have simply allowed these managers to go scot-free as though the Fund still has millions more to spend wastefully, freely!"

Response: This statement is so ridiculous it doesn't deserve to be addressed and it's still yet another in the long list of distortions quoted above designed to confuse Fund members and shift blame away from the administration and Legislature.

If the central government's neglect in making its obligatory employer's contribution payments wasn't enough bad news for the future financial security of the members, those who have kept up with the Fund's losses in the stock market know that the time to follow the advice of Fund management is now. It's possibly the last chance to mitigate some of the financial damage that has been sustained by the members from the unprecedented market decline. First, realize that it is not smart—and it is the worst possible time—to withdraw funds from a sinking market to meet pension payments. Currently

the Fund is forced to do just that and to sell at the very worst time when the value of the members' investments is so low. Second, realize that somewhere at these low market levels will be the best time to buy. Just where and when that level arrives I don't know, but the Fund's money managers should be positioned to recognize the moment and seize the opportunity to invest at bargain prices.

Of course, in order to do this, the Fund needs the capital ready and available to invest and the only place to get it is from the central government in an amount sufficiently large enough to recover some of the loss previously experienced. I know Fund officials know this but obviously certain armchair, backseat advisers in the central government and Legislature apparently do not. If something isn't done, and soon, the government's cancer of indifference and neglect will soon result in the death of the patient, namely, the Fund.

Accusation: "It is tantamount to the stimulus package of unbridled spending, only to result in the Tea Party where taxpayers are saying, "Keep Your Change" or "Chains we don't deserve!"

Response: Here the writer attempts to mix and match two different unrelated issues in a further attempt to damage the reputation of the Fund's trustees. The federal income tax rates levied in the United States have little relevance in the CNMI as a result of the NMI's 90 percent tax rebate, which effectively translates to little tax on income earned on the islands. What the Fund members do not deserve are inaccurate statements that distort facts and confuse issues.

Accusation or Question: "Understandably, it is difficult navigating investment opportunities under the volatility of the prevailing global financial crisis. But then, isn't it prudent for trustees to liquidate investment portfolios in order to avert further losses in Fund money by the millions of dollars as has happened recently? What does it take to bring you into equilibristic (sic) reality check?"

Response: By this observation it appears that the writer advocates "cashing in" all investments and liquidating the portfolio but no advice or suggestions are offered as to how to manage the resulting cash. Would he want it deposited in a local bank at low interest, or divided among the members of the benefit plan, or purchase land, or what? This is a totally unrealistic statement considering that such action as liquidation may be against CNMI law and is fraught with disastrous consequences too numerous to mention in the space available. Not the least of which being that the government decided to instigate its own retirement plan years ago and opted out of participation in the U.S. Social Security program at that time.

An "equilibristic (sic) reality check" may be needed—whatever that is! But I dare say there is a greater need for reality check within the two branches of government and not within Fund trustees.

To be continued.

William H. Stewart

via e-ma

P.S. Since 2004 I have published more than 50 "op-ed" pieces concerning the deteriorating condition of the member's retirement security. These articles may be reviewed in the archives of this paper by entering my name in the archives search bar. For economic credentials Google: saipanstewart.com (open on "Home").

NMC needs a real president

The public needs to know how employees get hired at NMC. Applicants for vital positions are interviewed by a committee. This committee is made up of NMC employees/directors from different departments. The committee grades the candidates and ranks them. Based on the interview and review of the candidate's background, the committee ranks who the most qualified candidate is. The committee then submits their recommendations to HR and the so-called president. Unfortunately, it doesn't matter who the committee recommends as being the most qualified. The president chooses who she likes. She doesn't take into consideration who is actually the most qualified. What is the point of having interviews with the committee in the first place if the NMC president simply chooses who she wants and disregards the recommendations. It's a waste of personnel time and the time of the qualified candidates. It is not an effective HR practice. This has happened many times. Something's really wrong with this picture. This is part of why employee morale is low. Fernandez, stop using our only community college as a place for your dirty little games. Get rid of Fernandez in May!

Alfonso Taimanglo

As Matuis, Saipan

Thank you

Friday was an amazing day. Thank you. Thousands of people came together for a single cause: a more beautiful Saipan. Young and old, citizen and non-citizen, local and non-local, government workers and business owners volunteered a few hours of their time to pick up the trash littering our beautiful island. Later this week the islands of Tinian and Rota will do the same. Again, thank you.

Our results were staggering. The final numbers show 4,140 volunteers, 61 volunteer groups and 54 adopted sites on Saipan, and 27,070 lbs (13.5 tons) of trash removed from our streets, beaches, and parks.

The collaboration between groups to make this islandwide cleanup a success was enormous. Division of Environmental Quality and Rotary Club of Saipan handled most of the pre-cleanup coordination and sign-ups. Marianas Visitors Authority, Marianas Tourism Education Council, McDonald's, and the Kramis family provided funds for supplies and prizes. On the day of the cleanup DEQ, Bureau of Environmental Health, and Division of Parks and Recreation coordinated all of the trash pickup. Additionally there were 55 volunteer group coordinators, who ensured that their adopted site had rubber gloves, trash bags, and most importantly, volunteers.

In every way, from the total number of volunteers, to the number of participating groups, to the amount of litter removed, this year's cleanup was bigger than anything the Beautify CNMI coalition has ever accomplished.

Furthermore, if the success of this cleanup has anything to teach us, it is that the government does not have the sole responsibility of solving our social problems, nor do they hold a monopoly on having the ability to fix them. We just showed that with a slight change in ethic and a small amount of effort on everyone's part we can move mountains, in this case a 6.5 ton mountain of cans, bottles, and cigarette butts.

Unfortunately, Saipan's streets and beaches will be covered in lit-

ter by the end of the week. Over the weekend hundreds of people went to the beach and left their trash, cigarette butts and cans are still being thrown out of cars, and homestead residents continue to dump their trash in the jungle.

Instead of being discouraged by this realization, I ask all of you to become reenergized. Change happens. The success of Beautify CNMI over the last three years and this latest cleanup are proof of that. Let us redouble our efforts to turn the Marianas into the cleanest, safest islands in the Pacific.

I encourage the volunteer groups that participated in this cleanup to adopt their spot for the next 12 months. Become the steward of that road, beach, or park for the next year.

I also encourage the eight government agencies charged with enforcing our litter laws to start making examples of some of the worst litter offenders. Hand out a few of those \$500 tickets to businesses not properly storing their garbage or to residents dumping their trash illegally.

Finally, I encourage our donors to continue supporting our cleanup efforts. We cannot paint over graffiti if we do not have paint and we cannot pick up litter if we do not have garbage bags.

Volunteers, government policy, and business support are the three legs on which Beautify CNMI stands. The continued involvement of all three will improve the quality of life for the people that live here and make us a more desirable tourism destination.

Again, thank you to all who have supported the concept of Beautify CNMI over the last three years and to everyone who participated in this historic islandwide cleanup. I look forward to many more years of collaboration and hard work as we move towards a more perfect Commonwealth.

Angelo Villagomez

Beautify CNMI

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Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian



Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds around 10 mph.

▲87° ▼78°

Palau

Yap

Chuuk

Pohnpei

Kosrae

Majuro

Auckland

Hong Kong

Los Angeles

Melbourne

New York

Honolulu

London

Manila

Miami

Osaka

Paris

Pusan

Rome

Salem

Seoul

Tokyo

Beijing

Micronesia

Guam and Rota Partly Sunny ▲86 ▼75

Showers

Rain

Partly Sunny

Showers

Rain

Sunny

Showers

Hot

Rain

Sunny

Rain

Showers

Rain

Showers

Rain

Rain

San Francisco Mostly Sunny ▲80 ▼48

Washington, DC Thundershowers ▲ 67 ▼ 45

Mostly Cloudy ▲77 ▼68

Partly Sunny ▲66 ▼52

Thundershowers ▲ 85 ▼ 67

Thunderstorms ▲57 ▼44

Mostly Sunny ▲ 74 ▼43

Around The Globe

Partly Sunny ▲88 ▼77

Mostly Sunny ▲87 ▼77



Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Fast winds around 10 mph.

▲87° ▼78°

▲87 **▼**77

▲83 ▼78

▲90 **▼**75

▲86 **▼**78

▲61 ▼51

▲75 ▼52

▲82 ▼75

▲96 **▼**58

▲84 **▼**78

▲ 74 ▼57

▲73 ▼53

▲66 **▼**48

▲63 ▼49

▲67 ▼51

▲54 ▼41

▲66 **▼**61



Partly cloudy with

isolated showers.

▲87°

▼78°



Partly cloudy with isolated showers.

Yesterday's Satellite Image



Partly cloudy with isolated showers.

▲87°

▲87° ▼78° ▼78°

WAKE SAIPAN GUAM

PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, MONDAY, APRIL 20, 2009

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A stationary front enters the discussion area west of Minamitori Shima at 25N148E and stretches westward through a low pressure system centered over Iwo To island at 25N141E then turns southwestward to 21N135E and finally turns northwestward to beyond 130E at 23N. Scattered showers are occurring along and north of the front to beyond 25N including Iwo To island. Converging winds south of the front are producing scattered showers and a few thunderstorms north of the CNMI within 75 miles of a line from 19N140E to 25N150E. A monsoon trough stretches southeastward from Mindanao to 5N130E then through a circulation centered southeast of Koror near 4N138E to end at EQ145E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are found near the trough axis south of Yap between the equator and 8N from 130E to 142E. Koror is at the northern edge of these showers. Trade winds converging toward the monsoon trough are creating scattered showers and a few thunderstorms southwest and south of Chuuk between the equator and 5N from 144E to 154E. Favorable upper-level winds are combining with trade-wind convergence to trigger numerous showers and a few thunderstorms east of Butaritari Atoll within 125 miles of a line from 1N174E to 6N180.

Tides					
Saipan Harbor					
5:09 AM Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet			
11:29 AM Today	Low Tide:	0.7 Feet			
5:01 PM Today	High Tide:	1.6 Feet			
11:19 PM Today	Low Tide:	0.5 Feet			

Sui	Мооі	nr		
Today	5:59 AM	6:32 PM	Today	
Wednesday	5:59 AM	6:33 PM	Wednesday	
Thursday	5:58 AM	6:33 PM	Thursday	
Friday	5:58 AM	6:33 PM	Friday	
Saturday	5:57 AM	6:33 PM	Saturday	

Moor	nrise/Moo	nset
Today	2:56 AM	3:04 PM
Wednesday	3:32 AM	3:54 PM
Thursday	4:10 AM	4:46 PM
Friday	4:50 AM	5:41 PM
Saturday	5:34 AM	6:40 PM

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- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings are other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togeth-
- ers, volunteer work, etc. ■ TRÁVELOGUE Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration
- **ANNOUNCEMENTS**
- COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Announcements of upcoming activities of organiza tions, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.

Announcements of upcoming activities in public and

private schools as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the Saipan Tribune to publish the pictures. ■ Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of
- 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months. ■ For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

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DEPARTURES ARRIVALS Saipan-Rota Rota-Saipan CO 9598 3:25am 4:00am CO9597 11:50am 12:25pm 1.7 Saipan-Guam **Guam-Saipan** CO 9316 2:30am 3:20am CO9317 5:00am 5:50am Daily 1.2.3.4.7 CO9313 8:30am 9:20am Daily CO9598 2:30am 4:00am 5.6 via Rota CO9597 11:50am 1:20pm 1,7 via Rota CO9596 7:00am 7:50am Daily CO9601 12:30pm 10:20am 1:20pm 2,3,4,5,6 CO9600 11:10am Daily CO9603 3:30pm 4:20pm Daily CO9602 2:00pm 2:50pm Daily CO9604 5:00nm 5:50nm CO9605 6:30pm 7:20pm Daily Daily CO9599 9:30pm 10:20pm Daily CO9606 8:00pm 8:50pm Daily Saipan-Narita Narita-Saipan NW 076 10:15am 2:40pm Daily NW 099 5:00am 7:35am Daily NW 078 8:20am 1:30pm NW 077 6:25pm 1:20am+1 2.3.4.5.6.7 2.3.4.5.6.7 NW 075 4:55pm 7:30pm Daily NW 100 8:45pm 1:10am+1 Daily **Guam-Narita** Narita-Guam NW 73 4:10pm 7:00pm Daily NW 74 9:45am 2:20pm Daily NW 81 3:55pm 6:55pm Daily NW 82 10:30am 3:10pm Daily Saipan-Osaka Osaka-Saipan OZ 119 4:00am 6:40am 1.4.6 OZ 120 9:50pm 2:20am+1 3,5,7 Guam-Osaka Osaka-Guam NW 79 4:45pm 7:35pm Daily NW 80 10:30am 3:00pm Daily Saipan-Nagoya Nagoya-Saipan NW 078 8:20am 11:05am Daily NW 077 9:00pm 1:20am+1 Daily Guam-Nagova Nagova-Guam NW 23 4:30pm 7:20pm Daily NW 24 10:00am 2:30pm Daily Incheon-Saipan Saipan-Incheon OZ 604 2:10am 6:00am OZ 605 9:00am 2:20pm Daily O7 604 2:40am 6:30am 2.3.4.5.6.7 OZ 603 7:40pm 1:00am+1 7 OZ 119 4:00am 11:25am 1,4,6 OZ 120 7:10pm 2:20am+1 3,5,7 via Osaka via Osaka OZ 606 3:20pm 7:00pm Daily OZ 603 8:10pm 1:30am+1 1,2,3,4,5,6 Saipan-Busan **Busan-Saipan** OZ 608 3:20am 6:50am 1,4,5,7 OZ 607 9:00pm 2:10am+1 3,4,6,7 Saipan-Shanghai Shanghai-Saipan FM 844 2:50am 5:40am 2.6 FM 843 7:15pm 1:50am+11,5 Rota-Guam **Guam-Rota** CO 9597 12:50pm 1:20pm 1,7 CO 9598 2:30am 3:00am 5,6 Guam-Palau Palau-Guam CO 954 2:30am 5:25am CO 953 7:40pm 8:40pm 1,7 1.2 CO 893 5:50pm 6:50pm 3,5 CO 892 2:35am 5:30am 4.6 Manila-Palau Palau-Manila CO 893 7:35pm 9:10pm 3,5 CO 892 10:10pm 1:50am+1 3,5 Guam-Manila Manila-Guam CO 892 10:10pm 5:30am+1 3,5 via Koror CO 893 5:50pm 9:10pm 3,5 via Koror CO 933 8:00pm 9:40pm Daily CO 934 11:10pm 4:40am+1 Daily

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MARCH 12, 2009

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; PR: Philippine Airlines; NW: Northwest; OZ: Asiana

NW 2

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD E	TA Frequ	ency
Guam-R	ota		
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Sai	pan		
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-F	Rota		
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Gu	am		
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-R	ota		
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Sai	pan		
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-F	Rota		
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Gu	ıam		
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-1	[inian		
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily

PR 111 6:00am

OZ 723 7:45pm

OZ 7173 8:00pm

Narita-Manila

Nagoya-Manila

Incheon-Hongkong

OZ 721 9:20am 12:00pm Daily

7:50am

10:35pm Daily

10:50pm 5,7

8:40pm 11:55pm Daily

7:00pm 10:55pm Daily

1,2,4,6,7

Airline	ETD E	TA Frequ	ency			
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily			
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily			
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily			
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily			
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily			
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily			
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily			
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting						

PR 110 10:10pm 4:00am+1 1,3,5,6,7

NW 72 6:30am 11:05am Daily

OZ 724 12:30am 4:50am Daily

OZ 7183 12:45am 5:05am 1,4,6

OZ 722 1:30pm 5:45pm Daily

7:45am 12:40pm Daily

Hongkong-Incheon

Manila-Nagoya

Manila-Narita

flights to Rota or Guam**

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FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone ■ *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

SAIPAN TRIBUNE TUESDAY, APRIL 21, 2009 **13**

Business

Exxon Mobil overtakes Wal-Mart to top Fortune 500

BUSINESS BRIEFS

White House: Obama to address credit card abuses WASHINGTON (AP)—

The White House says that it will back congressional efforts to clamp down on credit card abuses in an effort to address the recession's effect on Main Street. The House and Senate are considering a credit card bill of rights to limit the ability of credit card companies to raise interest rates on existing balances and to require greater disclosure. White House economic adviser Larry Summers said people need to save more, but that the government also needs to curb credit card pitches that addict people to plastic. President Barack Obama is "going to be very focused, in a very near term, on a whole set of issues having to do with credit card abuses. having to do with the way people have been deceived into paying extraordinarily high rates that they wouldn't have paid if they knew what they were getting themselves into," Summers said. Summers said the administration wants to see a better-regulated financial system, encourage savings and eventually get back to a situation where government spending is not a drain on the economy.

Oil falls below \$50 as investors eye US earnings

SINGAPORE (AP)—Oil prices fell below \$50 a barrel Monday in Asia as investors braced for a slew of U.S. corporate earnings reports this week that could temper optimism about global economic recovery.Benchmark crude for May delivery fell 91 cents to \$49.42 a barrel by midday in Singapore in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The contract Friday rose 35 cents to settle at \$50.33. Oil prices have played peek-aboo with \$50 a barrel this month after dropping below \$35 in February as investors struggle to decipher how the economy will perform in the second half. Stock markets have jumped more than 20 percent in the last six weeks on expectations that massive global stimulus packages will spark a recovery by the end of the year. Among the hundreds of companies due to report are 3M Co., Bank of America Corp., Boeing Co., Coca-Cola Co., DuPont, IBM Corp., McDonald's Corp., Merck & Co., and Microsoft Corp.

NEW YORK (AP)—Exxon Mobil Corp. unseated Wal-Mart Stores Inc. in the 2009 Fortune 500 list, shrugging off the oil price bubble and weathering what the magazine called the worst year ever for the country's largest publicly traded companies.

Fortune's closely watched list, released Sunday, ranked companies by their revenue in 2008. Irving, Texas-based Exxon took in \$442.85 billion in revenue last year, up almost 19 percent from 2007. The company also raked in the biggest annual profit, earning \$45.2 billion.

Bentonville, Ark.-based Wal-Mart had held the top spot for six of the last seven years but fell to No. 2 this year. Still, the retail giant's 2008 revenue climbed 7 percent to \$405.6 billion, as the battered economy sent more consumers searching for bargains. The world's largest retailer took in \$13.4 billion in annual profit, an increase of about 5 percent.



In this May 1, 2008, file photo, a customer pumps gas at an Exxon station in Middleton, Mass

Although it may have been a good year for Exxon and Wal-Mart, 2008 was far from rosy for most of remaining compa-

nies on the list. Overall earnings plunged 85 percent to \$98.9 billion from \$645 billion in 2007, the biggest one-year decline in the sound of bubbles burst-

the 55-year history of the Fortune 500 list.

"America is getting used to

ing," Fortune said.

Energy companies continued to dominate many of the top positions, as last summer's skyrocketing oil and gas prices more than compensated for their plunge later that fall. Chevron Corp. held on to third place with \$263.16 billion in revenue, up 25 percent. ConocoPhillips climbed one place to fourth, with \$230.76 billion in revenue.

General Electric Co., the diverse conglomerate whose troubled financial arm has been weighing on recent results, rose one notch to fifth. Battered automaker General Motors Corp. fell two spots to sixth, as revenue fell 18 percent and losses totaled \$30.86 billion amid the imploding car market. Crosstown rival Ford Motor Co. followed, with \$146.28 billion in revenue.

Telecom giant AT&T Inc. moved up two notches to take eighth place, with Hewlett-Packard Co. and Valero Energy Corp. rounding out the top 10.

Scrutiny grows on company tax breaks to gain jobs

ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

The time-honored swap of millions of dollars in tax breaks for the promise of thousands of jobs is under more scrutiny as states slash spending to shore up their budgets.

Missouri lawmakers pushing for caps on state tax credits to businesses are holding up Gov. Jay Nixon's proposal to reward more companies that hire employees at a decent wage with health benefits.

"All states are now buying jobs, you have to be in it," said Missouri Sen. Brad Lager. "But we only have a handful of tax credits that have caps."

\$170 million on historic preservation tax credits, which are not capped—slightly more than the state paid out for all of its 19 community colleges.

Ohio is banking on expanding tax breaks for companies that create or keep jobs. New Jersey wants to reward companies with \$3,000 for each new employee hired.

Florida, facing a roughly \$6 billion budget gap in the coming year, intends to offer loans to small businesses that show potential for expansion.

Tax breaks for businesses have long been controversial because some say business expansion should be spurred by the free market, not by an infu-Last year Missouri spent sion of taxpayer money. Sup-



This Jan. 2003 file photo, shows the world headquarters of the Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co in Akron, Ohio.

porters counter that it's money well spent and nets millions

more from income taxes.

revenue because of the highest U.S. unemployment in 25 years, low consumer spending and dismal home sales. Together, they face budget gaps that total \$50 billion and could reach \$120 billion nationwide in two years, according to an analysis from the Rockefeller Institute of Government, a think tank in Albany, N.Y.

"Given the nature of the crisis now, people are reluctant to cut economic programs if they don't have to," said Ian Pulsipher, an economic development analyst with the National Conference of State Legislatures in Denver.

States are looking at various ways to fund the proposed new incentives. Some are cutting budgets in other areas; others are States are collecting less tax eliminating other tax incentives.

ASC Trust official to speak at APAFS Palau conference

HAGATNA, Guam—

ASC Trust Corporation executive vice president Don H. Clark announced yesterday that he has agreed to participate in the upcoming Asia Pacific Association for Fiduciary Studies 2nd Annual Palau Country Conference set for May 1 at the Ngarayameyong Cultural Center.

Clark will address the effect of the economic crisis on retirement plans

in the region, as well as current global and ASC currently manages over 1,000 retirement regional trends in the defined contribution retirement plan market.

"APAFS has proven over the last 10 years to



Clark

be invaluable in bringing cutting edge knowledge and best practices in my field of expertise, to our region. In turn, I am grateful for the opportunity to share some of my knowledge with policy makers and other current, and future, retirement plan stakeholders in Palau," said Clark.

Hagatna, Guam-based ASC is a leader in retirement plan consulting services in the Asia Pacific Region. Founded in 1990,

plans representing over 50,000 plan participants. ASC services in excess of 350 employers in 13 countries, including Palau. (PR)

A'magic day' for Couture Marketing

Couture Marketing has added "The Magic of Anthony Reed" to its growing portfolio of clients in the Micronesia region. Both organizations consider this a magical moment.

You may recognize Anthony Reed as a contestant and finalist on the NBC show "America's Got Talent" from the 2007 series. In the words of Sharon Osborne—one of the judges for the show—"I must say, it was hip, it was modern, fantastic!"

After many years of only being able to see "The Magic of Anthony Reed" on the stage, Reed is now available to perform for exclusive children's events and private birthday parties on the island of Guam. The private show gives the word "WOW" a whole new meaning.

"As a father of two, performing for children and

watching the smiles on their faces brings me an enormous amount of personal satisfaction," said Reed. "While most of my time is still devoted to the stage, I look forward to the opportunity to perform for a limited number of private functions on Guam."

"Couture Marketing is thrilled to work with the very talented Anthony Reed," said Couture Marketing CEO and founder Andy Tidwell. "It's not often that you get the opportunity to work with such a talented and well known professional in the world of magic and our organization could not be more excited about this opportunity."

To learn more about having "The Magic of Anthony Reed" at your next event, contact Andy Tidwell at 671.479.1305 or andytidwellsf@yahoo.com. (PR)

14 TUESDAY, APRIL 21, 2009 SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Nation

Columbine students strive 10 years after massacre

LITTLETON, Colo. (AP)—The "boy in the window"—who fell bloodied and paralyzed into the arms of rescuers during the horrifying Columbine High shooting rampage—is doing just fine.

Now 27, Patrick Ireland has regained mobility with few lingering effects from gunshot wounds to his head and leg a decade ago. He is married and works in the financial services industry. His mantra: "I choose to be a victor rather than a victim."

Like Ireland, many survivors of the April 20, 1999, massacre have moved on to careers in education, medicine, ministry, retail.

But emotional scars still can trigger anxiety, nightmares and deeply etched recollections of gunfire, blood and bodies.

Some have written books; a few travel the world to share their experiences to help victims of violence.

"People have been able to have 10 years to reconcile what happened and see what fits in their life and who they are," said Kristi Mohrbacher of Littleton, who fled Columbine as the gunfire erupted. "It's kind of a part of who I am today. I think my priorities might be a little bit different if I hadn't had that experience."

Just after 11 a.m. on that day, Eric Harris, 18, and Dylan Klebold, 17, stormed the suburban school, killing 12 classmates and a teacher and wounding about two dozen. The massacre ended with the gunmen's suicides not quite an hour later. Sean Graves saw the pair loading weapons in a parking lot and thought they were preparing a senior prank with paintball guns.

Graves, Lance Kirklin and Daniel Rohrbough were walking toward them for a better look when the gunmen opened fire, killing Rachel Scott and Rohrbough and critically wounding Anne Marie Hochhalter, Graves and Kirklin, among others.

In the second-floor library, Ireland was about to finish some homework when he heard pipe bombs exploding in the hallway. Debris fell from the ceiling and a teacher shouted for students to take cover.

Klebold and Harris strode in, shouted for students to stand up, laughing and ridiculing classmates as they sprayed bullets.

Ireland was under a table with Dan Steepleton and Makai Hall when they were shot in the knees. Ireland was shot twice in the head and once in a leg, and lost consciousness.

The killers shot out a library window. Graves, lying partially paralyzed on a sidewalk below, worried that they would return. He smeared blood from his neck wound on his face and the ground to make it appear he was dead.

Patrick Ireland, a field director with a financial services company, poses for his picture at his office in Denver, Colo., on, Wednesday, April 15, 2009.

Harris and Klebold killed 10 students in the library before they left to reload, which gave some survivors a chance to flee. Steepleton and Hall tried to pull Ireland but couldn't move him far before they fled for safety. Shortly before noon, the gunmen returned to the library and committed suicide.

Ireland awoke some time later, his vision blurred. With fire alarms sounding and strobe lights flashing, the partially paralyzed teen began to push himself toward the bullet-shattered window.

Over the next three hours, he pulled his body along, lost and regained consciousness, then moved again through tables and chairs and past classmates' bodies. He figures he traveled about 50 feet to the window.

"I thought how much easier it would be just to give up, stay there and let somebody come get you or whatever would happen to you," Ireland said.



Driver charged in Texas crash that killed 5 kids

Loss still felt 14 years after OK City bombing

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP)—It was 14 years ago when Doris Battle's parents were killed in the Oklahoma City bombing, just two of the 168 people who died during the nation's worst domestic terrorist attack.

"I can't go home and see him anymore," Battle said of her father, Calvin Battle, who died with her mother Peola when the Oklahoma City federal building was bombed on April 19, 1995. And Battle said the passage of time has not diminished the loss she still feels.

Battle was among 400 people who gathered Sunday to observe the 14th anniversary of the bombing of the ninestory Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building, an attack that also injured hundreds of people. The explosion of a truck loaded with 4,000 pounds of ammonium nitrate and fuel oil tore the face off the building and caused millions of dollars in damage to other downtown structures.

Timothy McVeigh was executed in 2001 and Terry Nichols is serving multiple life sentences on federal and state convictions for their convictions in the bombing. Prosecutors had said the plot was an attempt to avenge the deaths of about 80 people in the government siege at the Branch Davidian compound in Waco, Texas, exactly two years earlier.

HOUSTON (AP)—Police filed intoxication manslaughter charges Sunday against a driver who lost control of his car while using a cell phone, plunging the vehicle into a rain-filled ditch and killing five children inside.

Chanton Jenkins, 32, was in police custody facing four counts of intoxication manslaughter, one charge for each of the children found dead so far, said Houston police spokesman Kese Smith. Police said a relative told them Jenkins was the father of three of the victims.

Jenkins failed a field sobriety test following Saturday's crash, which occurred after heavy rain turned the ditch into a torrent. The results of a blood alcohol test were pending, Smith said. It was unclear if Jenkins had an attorney.

The search was continuing for the missing victim, a 3-year-old girl. A dive team searched a bayou for the child Sunday afternoon, Smith said.

The bodies of three boys—ages 4, 7 and 11—were found inside the vehicle. A body believed to be that of a 1-year-old girl swept away from the car was found Sunday.

The car crashed into the ditch about two miles from the point where it feeds into Greens Bayou, a waterway that begins in northern Harris County and flows eastward and then south for about 40 miles before emptying into the Houston Ship Channel.

Studies find factories release pharmaceuticals

By JEFF DONN, MARTHA MENDOZA

and JUSTIN PRITCHARD
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITERS

Federal scientists testing for pharmaceuticals in water have been finding significantly more medicine residues in sewage downstream from public treatment facilities that handle waste from drugmakers.

Early results from two pivotal federal studies compare wastewater at treatment plants that handle sewage from drugmakers with those that do not. The studies cover just a small fraction of the 1,886 pharmaceutical manufacturing facilities

counted in a 2006 U.S. Census report.

In one study, samples taken at two treatment plants down the sewer line from drugmaking factories contained a range of pharmaceuticals—among them opiates, a barbiturate and a tranquilizer at "much higher detection frequencies and concentrations" than samples taken at other plants, according to preliminary research by the U.S. Geological Survey. One drug, the muscle relaxant metaxalone, was measured in treated sewage at concentrations hundreds of times higher than the level at which federal regulators can order a review of a drug's environmental impact.

ACROSS THE NATION

High stakes in Hurricane Katrina flooding trial

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—More than three years after Katrina stirred up the waters and washed out levees along a 75-mile, man-made shipping channel dubbed "hurricane highway," a judge could soon decide whether the Army Corps of Engineers owes residents and businesses damages because of the massive flooding. Arguments are set to begin Monday in the trial, which will be heard and decided by a judge, not a jury. And much is at stake: If the five residents and one business in this initial lawsuit are victorious, more than 120,000 other individuals, businesses and government entities could have a better shot at claiming billions of dollars in damages. The residents argue the corps' poor maintenance of the Mississippi River-Gulf Outlet, a shipping channel dug in the 1960s as a short-cut between the Gulf of Mexico and New Orleans, led to the wipeout of St. Bernard Parish and the city's Lower Ninth Ward when Katrina struck in August 2005. They are asking for damages between \$300,000 and \$400,000 for each individual. The corps has argued that it is immune from liability because the channel is part of New Orleans' flood control system, but the judge has allowed the case to move forward because residents claim the shipping channel was a navigation project

Report: Chicago suburb supplied contaminated water

CRESTWOOD, Ill. (AP)—Officials knowingly drew drinking water from a contaminated well for more than two decades even after warnings by state environmental officials, according to a published report. Records showed that state Environmental Protection Agency officials cited contaminated tap water in Crestwood in the 1980s, saying it contained dangerous chemicals related to a dry-cleaning solvent, according to a *Chicago Tribune* story published Sunday. The water in the suburb south of Chicago was con-

taminated with chemicals linked to perchloroethylene, or PCE, which is believed to cause cancer. The Tribune reported that village officials told state regulators that they would use water from Lake Michigan, but the village of about 11,000 continued to draw from the contaminated well. It said that at times, up to 20 percent of the village's water supply came from the well and that officials touted the village's cheap water rates during the two decades. The well was not shut off until late 2007, after state EPA officials tested the water and found contamination.

Supreme Court to get Ariz. teen strip-search case

TUCSON, Ariz. (AP)—Savana Redding was 13 years old when she was told to remove her clothes for a strip search by school officials looking for the equivalent of two Advils. And while the humiliation hasn't diminished in the past five and a half years, she hopes the U.S. Supreme Court can do something about the emotional scar. The nation's highest court will hear the 19-year-old's case Tuesday against Safford Middle School officials who searched her for prescription-strength ibuprofen pills that a fellow student accused her of having. "I'm never going to be able to forget about this," says Redding, a college freshman living in her hometown of Safford in rural eastern Arizona. "I'll think about it constantly, but I don't think it'll be as big a burden." The Supreme Court will hear arguments on whether school officials violated the Fourth Amendment, which prohibits unreasonable searches. Among the questions to be resolved are whether they had reasonable grounds to believe Redding was hiding pills and whether the pills posed a public health threat serious enough to justify a strip search. If the court finds the search was unconstitutional, it will have to decide whether school officials can be held financially liable by determining whether it should have been clear to them in October 2003 that the search was illegal.

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Asia

UN says NKorea could restart nuclear facilities

ASIAN BRIEFS

Philippine police rescue hostage

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Commandos have rescued a hostage after storming what police said was a kidnapping gang's hide-out in the northern Philippines and killing five suspects. National police chief Jesus Verzosa says the five were identified as members of the notorious Mostrales gang that has been engaged in kidnappings for ransom in Manila and nearby provinces. He says the group's Filipino hostage was rescued and operatives recovered four handguns and ammunition during Sunday night's raid in Urdaneta city. Officials did not immediately release details of the abduction and rescue. Kidnappings are common in the Philippines but more often occur in the violence-torn south.

China launches new English-language newspaper

BEIJING (AP)—China's Communist Party began publishing a new English-language newspaper Monday in a campaign to push the party line in international media. The English edition of the Global Times will "cover the world from a Chinese perspective, and reflects the standpoints and opinions of Chinese people on significant international issues," the official Xinhua News Agency said in a report. It quoted Hu Xijin, the Global Times' editor in chief, as saying the paper aimed to "to make friends with foreigners and to facilitate communication between China and the world." The new English-language paper's launch reflects China's new "soft power" drive to build its global reputation, muffle foreign criticism and broadcast the leadership's particular views on issues such as democracy, human rights and Tibet The Global Times is published by party mouthpiece People's Daily, directly controlled by the powerful party Central Committee. Xinhua is itself controlled by the Cabinet. Along with media, China's propaganda campaign includes academic, cultural and sports exchanges, highlighted by last year's Beijing Summer Olympic Games.

Sri Lanka army: 5,000 war zone civilians rescued

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP)—The military says troops have rescued more than 5 000 civilians from the small sliver of territory in northern Sri Lanka where remaining Tamil rebels are making their last stand. The military has designated the area a "no-fire" zone to protect what the United Nations estimates are 100,000 civilians trapped there. Military spokesman Brig. Udaya Nanayakkara says soldiers advanced into the no-fire zone Monday, seized an earth fortification built by the separatist Tamil Tigers and rescued more than 5,000 civilians. Government forces have captured all the rebel strongholds in recent months and boxed the remaining guerrillas into the designated zone, some 7.7 square miles (20 square kilometers) on the northern coast. The government and aid groups have accused the rebels of holding civilians there as human shields.

BEIJING (AP)—North Korea could restart its nuclear facilities within months, the head of the U.N.'s nuclear watchdog warned Monday, but he added he was optimistic that negotiations on halting Pyongyang's nuclear ambitions could be revived.

International Atomic Energy Agency chief Mohamed El-Baradei said Monday "it could be a question of months" when asked how soon North Korea could restart its nuclear facilities.

North Korea vowed last week to restart its nuclear program and quit six-nation disarmament talks because the U.N. Security Council criticized its April 5 rocket launch as a violation of resolutions barring it from ballistic missile-related activity. North Korea told the IAEA on Tuesday it would reactivate all its facilities and go ahead with the reprocessing of spent fuel.

However, El-Baradei said he was hopeful that openness shown by the United States under the Obama administration would help restart international talks with North Korea.

"While I am distressed because, of course, what has happened in North Korea is a setback, I am optimistic about the new environment," he said, and pointed to Washington's new openness to dialogue with countries such as North Korea and Iran—countries whose nuclear ambitions have alarmed the international community.

He said his personal view was that the only way to resolve such issues was "not through flexing muscles, not necessarily only to go to the Security Council, but to try to address the root causes and engage in mutual dialogue based on mutual respect."

"If you develop a package for North Korea based on assurance of security, eco-



Study: China's Great Wall is longer than thought

BEIJING (AP)—The Great Wall of China is even greater than once thought.

Atwo-year government mapping study has uncovered new sections of the ancient Chinese monument that total about 180 miles (290 kilometers), according to a report posted on the State Bureau of Surveying and Mapping Web site.

Using mapping technologies such as infrared range finders and GPS devices, experts discovered portions of the wall—concealed by hills, trenches and rivers—that stretch from Hu Mountain in northern Liaoning province to Jiayu Pass in western Gansu province, the official China Daily reported Monday.

The newly mapped parts of the wall were built during the Ming Dynasy (1368-1644) to protect against northern invaders and were submerged over

time by sandstorms that moved across the arid region, the study said.

The additional parts mean the Great Wall—which Chinese emperors began constructing 2,000 years ago to keep out Monguls and invaders—spans about 3,900 miles (6,300 kilometers) through the northern part of the country.

The joint project, conducted by the State Administration of Cultural Heritage and State Bureau of Surveying and Mapping, will continue for another year in order to map sections of the wall built during the Qin (221 B.C.-206 B.C.) and Han (206 B.C.-9 A.D.) Dynasties, the report said.

Recent studies by Chinese archaeologists have shown that sections of the wall in Gansu are being reduced to "mounds of dirt" by sandstorms and may disappear entirely in 20 years. They blamed destructive farming methods in the 1950s that desertified large areas of northern China. In addition, portions of the wall in Gansu were made of packed earth, which proved less resilient that brick and stone used in much of the wall's construction.

China in recent years has begun restoring parts of the wall as well as trying to rein in commercial development on and around it.

The wall's modern sections around the Chinese capital date from the Ming Dynasty, including those restored since the Communist Party took power in 1949, and several areas—including the most popular, Badaling, just north of Beijing—draw hundreds of thousands of visitors each year.

South Korean court acquits Internet blogger

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—A South Korean court Monday acquitted a blogger charged with spreading false information on the Internet under a mysterious pseudonym, in a high-profile case that sparked heated debate over freedom of speech in cyberspace.

Park Dae-sung, 30, an unemployed Seoul resident, was acquitted by the Seoul Central District Court, with presiding Judge Yoo Young-hyeon saying he could not see that Park "had the intention to undermine public interest."

Park, writing anonymously under the pen name "Minerva" after the Greek goddess of wisdom, caused a sensation in South Korea last year by denouncing the government's handling of the economy and making largely negative predictions.

Some of those, including the collapse of U.S. investment bank Lehman Brothers, proved correct, helping spark interest in his online postings and add-

ing to his aura of mystery.

Prosecutors accused him of falsely writing that the government had banned major financial institutions and trade businesses from buying U.S. dollars, and indicted him in January. They sought an 18-month prison sentence.

Park described himself in Web entries as a former securities firm employee with a master's degree earned in the United States and experience in the field of corporate acquisitions and takeovers. nomic assistance, human rights, I would hope that North Korea would come back to the fold and again come back to the nonproliferation treaty," he said.

Under a 2007 six-party deal, North Korea agreed to disable its main nuclear complex in Yongbyon north of Pyongyang in return for 1 million tons of fuel oil and other concessions. In June 2008, North Korea blew up the cooling tower at Yongbyon in a dramatic show of its commitment to denuclearization.

But disablement came to halt a month later as Pyongyang wrangled with Washington over how to verify its 18,000-page account of past atomic activities. The latest round of talks, in December, failed to push the process forward.

South Korean tourists look on Korea peninsula depicting Korean War at Korea War Memorial Museum in Seoul, South Korea, Sunday, April 19, 2009.

Thailand extends state of emergency in capital

BANGKOK (AP)—Authorities on Sunday extended a state of emergency in Thailand's capital, saying efforts to restore security were still incomplete after anti-government rioting last week and a brazen attack on a protest leader.

Prime Minister Abhisit Vejjajiva met with security agencies to discuss the potential for more protests, riots or attacks in Bangkok, government spokesman Panitan Wattanayagorn said.

Officials decided to retain the state of emergency because the situation is still "problematic, but as soon as things have calmed down, it will be lifted immediately," Panitan said.

"More and more, things are back to normal but there are still elements of concern," he said.

The emergency decree bans gatherings of more than five people, forbids news reports that threaten public order and allows the government to call up military troops to quell unrest.

In his weekly television address Sunday, Abhisit sought to ease tensions and defended his government's actions in deploying troops to quell the violent protests that had paralyzed the capital. Two people were killed and more than 130 injured during the unrest, which pitted angry protesters against soldiers and residents.

"What the government did was to restore peace for the benefit of all Thais. More importantly, it was to allow the government to continue working," Abhisit said.

"What I'd like to reiterate is that nobody has won and nobody has lost from the past events," he said.

The anti-government protesters, known as "red shirts," want former Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra to return to power. Thaksin, who fled overseas to avoid a corruption conviction, was ousted by a 2006 military coup.

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World

WORLD BRIEFS

Plane hijacked at airport in Jamaica's Montego Bay

KINGSTON, Jamaica (AP)—A plane was hijacked on the tarmac near the resort city of Montego Bay, an airport spokeswoman said Monday. Nobody has been injured and no passengers were aboard the Boeing 737 at Montego Bay's Sangster International Airport, according to spokeswoman Elizabeth Scotton. "The situation is ongoing," Scotton said early Monday. Scotton said she could not confirm reports that a gunman was holding members of the crew hostage on the plane. CNN reported that seven people were being held hostage and that negotiations for their release were under way. About 150 people were scheduled to be on the flight, the news network reported. Scotton said the situation began around 10 p.m. Sunday. That is about an hour before the Canjet flight destined for Halifax, Canada, was scheduled to depart, according to Canjet's Web site. Phone messages left with Canjet and police were not immediately returned.

Iran president urges full defense for US reporter

TEHRAN, Iran (AP)—Iran's president said Sunday that an American journalist convicted of spying for the U.S. should be allowed to offer a full defense during her appeal, a day after she was sentenced to eight years in prison. The message was a sign that Iran's leadership does not want the case to derail moves toward a dialogue with the Obama administration to break a 30-year diplomatic deadlock. Hard-line President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad sent a letter to Tehran's chief prosecutor instructing him to personally ensure that "suspects be given all their rights to defend themselves" against the charges. "Prepare for the court proceedings ... to observe and apply justice precisely," the state news agency IRNA quoted him as saying. The letter came a day after Iran announced the conviction and sentence for Roxana Saberi, a 31year-old dual American-Iranian citizen who was born in the U.S. and grew up in Fargo, North Dakota. It was the first time Iran has found an American journalist guilty of espionage, and her lawyer said he'll appeal.

UN global conference on racism set to open

GENEVA (AP)—The United Nations' global conference on racism opens Monday without the U.S. or at least seven other countries who have boycotted the event out of concern that Islamic countries will demand that it denounce Israel and ban criticism of Islam. The administration of President Barack Obama, America's first black head of state, announced Saturday that it would boycott "with regret" the weeklong meeting in Geneva, which already is experiencing much of the bickering and political infighting that marred the 2001 conference in Durban, South Africa. The Netherlands, Germany and New Zealand announced their boycotts Sunday, while Australia, Canada, Israel and Italy already had said they would not attend. The French foreign minister said his country's ambassador to Geneva would attend, but would walk out "immediately" if the conference turned into a platform for racist comments against Israel. Britain had earlier said it would attend.

Obama: Reaching out to enemies strengthens US



President Barack Obama speaks during his final news conference at the 5th Summit of the Americas in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, Sunday, April 19, 2009.

PORT-OF-SPAIN, Trinidad

(AP)—Defending his brand of world politics, President Barack Obama said Sunday that he "strengthens our hand" by reaching out to enemies of the United States and making sure that the nation is a leader, not a lecturer, of democracy.

Obama's foreign doctrine emerged across his four-day trip to Latin America, his first extended venture to a region of the world where resentment of U.S. power still lingers. He got a smile, handshakes and even a gift from incendiary leftist leader Hugo Chavez of Venezuela, and embraced overtures ness," Obama said.

of new relations from isolated Cuban President Raul Castro.

"The whole notion was that if we showed courtesy or opened up dialogue with governments that had previously been hostile to us, that that somehow would be a sign of weak-

Mexican arms race: bigger guns for drug cartels

MEXICO CITY (AP)—An escalating arms race among Mexico's drug cartels casts doubt on whether Mexico or the U.S. can stop the flow of weaponry, despite renewed vows last week from presidents of both countries.

Stockpiles captured by Mexican soldiers show that warring traffickers are now obtaining military-grade weaponry such as grenades, launchers, machine guns, mortars and antitank rockets.

Some drug gangs have even sought explosive material that some experts worry could be used in car bombs and improvised explosive devices of the kind used in Iraq and Afghanistan. Soldiers found 14 sticks of TNT among an arsenal of hundreds of rifles and grenades seized in November

from a house in Reynosa, across the border from McAllen, Texas.

But so far, attempts at using bombs have been unsuccessful as drug gangs haven't yet developed the skills to build effective ones, said Stephen Meiners, a Latin America analyst with Stratfor, a private U.S.-based group. Authorities suspect the Sinaloa cartel tried to kill a Mexico City police officer last year with a homemade bomb that killed only the attacker.

"Once you have a bomb maker that has mastered that skill, unless that bomb maker is caught, he can keep constructing those devices and send them out to be deployed," he said.

One of the most worrisome weapons yet was seized this week just gun mounted on the back of an SUV and protected by a thick metal shield. Police said it belonged to one of the Beltran Leyva drug gangs.

Mexican and U.S. authorities disagree on just what type of gun it was. Federal police coordinator Gen. Rodolfo Cruz maintains it was .50-caliber anti-air craft machine gun. ATF, the U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, said it was an unmodified .50-caliber semiautomatic rifle made by TNW, a U.S. firearms manufacturer.

ATF investigators traced the gunalong with seven others seized at a house in Sonora state on Mondayto suppliers in the United States, said Bill Newell, special agent in charge of south of Nogales, Ariz.: a powerful the ATF in Arizona and New Mexico.

debris from Italy's latest devastating earthquake is cleaned up, investigators fear that organized crime is poised to profit from contracts worth billions of dollars to rebuild schools, hospitals, courthouses and homes.

Many Cubans temper hopes for improved US relations

talk about improved U.S.-Cuba relathough he said Sunday that the commureally prepared for normal relations with tions before, and many are not buying it this time around—at least for now.

Some wonder if vested interestsanti-Castro Cuban-Americans or Cuban government bureaucrats—are ready to change, others aren't sure the two countries can overcome 50 years of mistrust. Still others question whether any of it will improve the lives of ordinary islanders.

"Things are getting really interesting, but I'm not waiting for anything spectacular immediately," said Raul Sarduy, a 72-year-old retiree in the capital's Miramar neighborhood.

The U.S. erased restrictions on Americans who want to visit or send money to relatives in Cuba and President Barack Obama said at the Summit of the Americans that "the United States seeks

HAVANA (AP)—Cubans have heard a new beginning" with this country, said Cardenas, 50. "I don't know if we're nist government should release political prisoners, afford greater freedoms and reduce official fees on money sent here from the States.

> Likewise, Cuban President Raul Castro said he would be willing to negotiate everything with the U.S. - including such thorny issues as freedom of the press, human rights and the roughly 205 political prisoners that rights observers say Cuba holds.

"I'm hopeful. Can't you see the smile on my face?" office worker Rogelio Cardenas asked Sunday as he walked in western Havana's well-todo Plava district.

Upon further reflection, however, his grin began to waver.

"Actually, I'm not too optimistic,"

the United States because here there's a whole layer of the population that has a stake in nothing changing."

Thousands of Communist Party members and top government officials who make comfortable livings fueled by official animosity toward the United States-and they may not be ready to give that up, Cardenas said.

"I'm not talking about Fidel or Raul" Castro, he said. "I'm talking about a whole mediocre class. Bureaucrats."

Plenty of people in the U.S.—including the anti-Castro lobby in South Florida—also have a vested interest in strained relations. But both nations are now trading their warmest words since Washington broke diplomatic relations with Cuba in 1961.

"The American people didn't buy it," Obama said. "And there's a good reason the American people didn't buy it—because it doesn't make sense." Still, Obama made sure to inject

some go-it-slow caution and clear expectations for U.S. foes as he capped his trip to twin-island nation of Trinidad and Tobago with a steamy outdoor news conference.

On Cuba, he said Castro should release political prisoners, embrace democratic freedoms and cut fees on the money that Cuban-Americans send back to their families. Obama has lifted some restrictions on Cuba, and Castro responded with a broad, conciliatory overture.

"The fact that you had Raul Castro say he's willing to have his government discuss with ours not just issues of lifting the embargo, but issues of human rights, political prisoners, that's a sign of progress," Obama said. "And so we're going to explore and see if we can make some further steps."

He did not, though, offer any sign of lifting the crushing U.S. trade embargo on Cuba, as many Latin American and U.S. leaders want. Obama acknowledged that the U.S. policy in Cuba for the last 50 years "hasn't worked" but said change will be gradual.

In Washington, both Democrats and Republicans said Sunday that they wanted to see actions, not just rheto-

Italian govt fears mobsters are ready to profit from quake

ROME (AP)—Even before all the

The crime clans have many connections to cement companies, debris-removal outfits and other businesses which could infiltrate the reconstruction process if authorities aren't vigilant, warned Franco Roberti, head of the Naples office of investigative magistrates who probe the Camorra crime syndicate based in that southern port city.

"We learned just how involved the Camorra is in this (construction work) by investigating the aftermath of the 1980 quake" near Naples, said Rob ti in a telephone interview.

L'Aquila, the largest town in the central Apeninne Abruzzo region which was rocked by the 6.3-magnitude quake on April 6, is some 150 miles (240 kilometers) north of Naples, and lies outside the southern home turf of Italy's major crime syndicates.

But investigators say Italy's mobsters are increasingly breaking out of traditional geographic boundaries, as they expand into the more affluent central and northern regions in search of ways to launder and invest hundreds of millions of dollars in revenue from drug trafficking, extortion and other rackets.

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Overdrive

NUTS & BOLTS

BY WARREN BROWN

THE WASHINGTON POST

COMPLAINT

This is not a car for people seeking fuel economy. General Motors has 20 cars that get at least 30 miles per gallon. More such models are available from other manufacturers. The G8 GXP and rivals in its category are for people who value automotive power and handling above all else. Also, with its six-speed manual transmission, this one isn't fun to drive in congested city traffic.

RIDE, ACCELERATION AND HANDLING

Ride is excellent, including over New York City's rutted and potholed streets. Acceleration and handling are among best in class.

HEAD-TURNING QUOTIENT

The G8 GXP's exterior and interior styling drew rave reviews everywhere.

BODY STYLE/LAYOUT

The Pontiac G8 GXP is a full-size, front-engine, rear-wheel-drive, high-performance car with four side doors and a traditional notch-back trunk equipped with pass-through access to the rear cabin for extra storage.

ENGINE/TRANSMISSION

The G8 GXP comes with a 6.2-liter, overhead-valve V-8 engine that develops 415 horsepower at 5,900 revolutions per minute and 415 foot-pounds of torque at 4,600 revolutions per minute. In the test car, the engine was mated to an optional six-speed manual transmission. A six-speed automatic transmission that also can be shifted manually is standard.

CAPACITIES

There are seats for five people. Trunk capacity is 18 cubic feet. The fuel tank holds 19 gallons of premium unleaded gasoline.

MILEAGE

The G8 GXP gets 13 miles per gallon in the city and 20 miles per gallon on the highway. Like most performance cars, it is not designed to sip fuel.

SAFETY

Standard equipment includes front and rear ventilated disc brakes with antilock protection, side and head air bags, and electronic stability and traction control.

PRICE

The base price on the 2009 Pontiac G8 GXP is \$37,610. Dealer's invoice price on that model is \$35,918. Price as tested is \$40,755, including \$695 for the manual-transmission option, a \$1,700 federal gas-guzzler tax and a \$750 transportation charge. Dealer's price as tested is \$38,988. Prices are sourced from GM/Pontiac, Edmunds.com and Cars.com, an affiliate of The Washington Post.

PURSE-STRINGS NOTE

The Pontiac G8 GXP is one of the best high-performance cars available for the money. If you are in the market for that kind of excitement, it's a buy.

2009 PONTIAC G8 GXP

A muscle car infused with Euro sophistication

BY WARREN BROWN THE WASHINGTON POST

CORNWALL, N.Y.—It pulled nicely up Mountain Brook Road in second gear, which was no small feat. Mountain Brook is steep. Its elevation has caused many transmissions to grind and whine, many engines to groan, as if they were designed only to complement this nation's massive investment in flat surfaces.

But the 2009 Pontiac G8 GXP—a high-performance, rear-wheel-drive sedan with a 425-horsepower, 6.2-liter V-8 engine and six-speed manual transmission—had guts. It moved smoothly, confidently uphill in second, never once evidencing strain or distemper.

It was a nice car. That's "nice" as in "bad" and "kick—," well, you get the idea.

The Pontiac Division of General Motors has got something here—part old-fashioned American muscle car, part sophisticated European performance ride.

That's good news. But here's hoping it doesn't come too late in the news cycle for GM.

You've read the headlines, heard and seen the news reports. The century-old

GM, once a mainstay of American industrial might, is in trouble, at risk of no longer remaining a going concern. It messed up in the 1970s and 1980s, producing the motorized equivalent of schlock, including a bevy of Pontiacs that barely qualified as rental cars.

Pontiac, which had once truly lived up to the title "the excitement division," became GM's "whatever" shop.

It took time and money—tens of billions of dollars—to set all of that right. And just when it seemed that GM was getting things fixed, the bottom fell out of the national and global economies, scaring buyers out of new-car showrooms and almost putting GM out of business.

That's too bad. And here's hoping that GM can hold on, because the G8 GXP proves that GM can and does make darned good cars.

My wife, Mary Anne, and I drove this one 600 miles, including a oneway trip here from our home in Virginia and a couple of roundtrips between Cornwall and New York City. The car drew spectators and raves everywhere we went. And that includes highly favorable reviews for the G8 GXP's interior, which were noteworthy because Pontiac interiors for the longest time



THE WASHINGTON POST

The 2009 Pontiac G8 GXP is a full-size high-performance car with four side doors and a traditional notch-back trunk. Its exterior and interior styling drew rave reviews everywhere, and its acceleration and handling are among the best in its class.

were less than praiseworthy.

But the G8 GXP cabin's high-quality materials, ergonomically sensible layout (with power-window buttons easily reachable on a central, floor-mounted console, for example), and perfect fit-and-finish were on a level comparable to something from Audi. And that's saying something, because Audi and its parent, Volkswagen, make some of the best interiors in the business.

But now for an inconvenient truth:

The G8 GXP, like most high-performance automobiles, is a gas-guzzler. It gets 13 miles per gallon in the city and 20 miles per gallon on the highway, requiring premium unleaded gasoline "for best performance," which means it is not likely to win any awards from the Sierra Club or from President Obama's auto task force

But here's hoping that Obama's people understand that the automobile industry is multi-dimensional, with different customers in different niches all demanding and—when credit is available—all willing to pay for different vehicles. GM competes in all those niches, including the developing segment for electrically powered urban commuters.

People shopping for models such as the G8 GXP, comparatively smaller in number than those looking for economy cars or other mainstream automobiles, tend to be substantially less interested in fuel economy than they are in vehicle handling and power.

With the G8 GXP, they get healthy helpings of the latter, delivered with a richness that is competitive with the best in the business. People interested in fuel economy should choose another model.

Shanghai auto expo: showdown for global automakers

By ELAINE KURTENBACH

AP BUSINESS WRITER

SHANGHAI (AP)—World automakers were launching 13 new models Monday as they converged on China's commercial capital for the Shanghai Auto show, a key showcase for the only major growing car market.

From upstart BYD Auto to sports and luxury car makers like Porsche, automakers everywhere are zeroing in on China's growth as they struggle through hard times elsewhere.

"The number of new launches, especially from global manufacturers, will set it apart," said Paul Gao, CFO of Chery Quantum Auto Co., a new unit of Chery Automobile Co. that is developing upscale models for the domestic automaker.

"Many automakers now see the Chinese market as at the forefront," he said.

Porsche kicked off the show on Sunday night by unveiling the Panamera, the German automaker's first foray into the luxury sedan segment. Porsche said its decision to reveal the vehicle in China signals the rising importance of the country's auto market.

Porsche sales in Asia more than doubled in its 2007-2008 fiscal year to 7,600 vehicles, the company said.

"This is a clear signal that we count on these markets and have full confidence in their future economic poten-



In this photo released by China's Xinhua news agency, a Wiesmann MF4 GT is on display during an auto show in north China's Tianjin Municipality, Saturday, April 18, 2009.

tial," Porsche Chief Executive Wendelin Wiedeking said in a statement.

Like the company's Cayenne SUV, the new four-door Panamera will be built at Porsche's plant in Leipzig, Germany. It will be entering the market in Europe, South America and parts of Asia in September 2009, in North America and Australia in October, and in China in early 2010.

China, the world's second-biggest

car market, has revived sales after a late-2008 slump with tax cuts and rebates that are pulling small vehicles out of showrooms nearly as fast as companies can make them.

Sales hit monthly record of 1.11 million vehicles in March, exceeding U.S. sales for the third month in a row and up 5 percent from a year earlier.

While the surge to the forefront mainly is a result of deteriorating con-

ditions in the U.S. and elsewhere, the gravitational center of the world auto market clearly has shifted to China and other emerging markets.

The uptick in sales this year caught many automakers off guard, since they had cut production in expectations that the slowdown in sales seen last year would persist in China, Gao says.

"There are supply shortages and in some cases, automakers couldn't meet demand. Joint ventures rely on imported components, and many of the tierone global suppliers were already on the verge of bankruptcy," he said.

But these are the kind of headaches automakers pray for at a time when sales in the U.S. market have been plunging by close to 40 percent in annual terms.

China is a lifeline for ailing General Motors Corp., which sold 137,004 vehicles in China in March, up 24.6 percent from a year earlier. Tax cuts and other government policies focused on encouraging sales of small, fuel-efficient cares pushed sales at its minivehicle joint venture, SAIC-GM-Wuling, up 38 percent to 90,784 vehicles.

Kevin Wale, president and managing director of the GM China Group, says GM intends to double its sales in China, to more than 2 million a year, by 2014. Among its strategies: launching or upgrading more than 30 models over those five years.

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Life & Style

Miss North Carolina USA crowned Miss USA 2009

By KATHLEEN HENNESSEY
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

LAS VEGAS (AP)—Miss North Carolina USA Kristen Dalton was crowned Miss USA 2009 on Sunday, beating out 50 other beauty queens in the live pageant televised from Planet Hollywood Resort & Casino in Las Vegas.

The 22-year-old aspiring motivational speaker and entertainer from Wilmington edged out first runner-up Miss California USA Carrie Prejean, of San Diego, and second runner-up Miss Arizona USA Alicia-Monique

Blanco, of Phoenix.

"It feels really natural," Dalton said of her win. "I've worked so be here and this has been my lifelong dream and it's finally here. And whoever knew you could win in a turquoise gown?"

Contestants from all 50 states and the District of Columbia competed in the pageant, aired live on NBC. Contestants were judged by their performance in swimsuit and evening gown modeling contests and their responses to a question asked onstage; unlike the rival Miss America pageant, Miss USA contestants do not perform a talent

The top 15 contestants worked the stage in white string bikinis designed by pop star Jessica Simpson's swimwear line. Rocker Kevin Rudolf performed his song "Let it Rock," followed by The Veronicas, who performed their single "Untouched" as the top 10 beauties showed off their choice of glittering evening gowns.

Dalton's was a flowing, blue Grecian number that stood out among a series of white gowns.

Her title comes with a year's use of a New York apartment, a public relations team, a two-year scholarship at the New

York Film Academy and an undisclosed salary.

She also will go to the Bahamas in August to compete in the Miss Universe pageant, where American beauties haven't been lucky in recent years. Both Miss USA 2008 Crystle Stewart and her predecessor, Rachel Smith, wiped out on stage during the evening gown competition, becoming accidental YouTube stars.

Asked about the tumble during the show on Sunday, Stewart said it was a lesson in bouncing back from defeat.

"I think it was a true test of



AP

Miss North Carolina Kristen Dalton gets crowned Miss USA Sunday April 19, 2009 at The Planet Hollywood Resort & Casino in Las Vegas.

my character," said the 27-yearold Texan, who worked to raise awareness for breast cancer as she traveled the globe promoting the beauty contest.

If there is a YouTube moment from Sunday's show, it may be Miss California's answer to a question about legalizing samesex marriage. The tall blonde stumbled some before giving an answer that appeared to please the pageant audience.

"We live in a land where you can choose same-sex marriage or opposite marriage," Prejean said. "And you know what, I think in my country, in my fam-

ily, I think that I believe that a marriage should be between a man and a woman. No offense to anybody out there, but that's how I was raised."

Some in the audience cheered, others booed. The answer sparked a shouting match in the lobby after the show.

"It's ugly," said Scott Ihrig, a gay man, who attended the pageant with his partner. "I think it's ridiculous that she got first runner-up. That is not the value of 95 percent of the people in this audience. Look around this audience and tell me how many gay men there are."

CNN to treat Obama's 100th day like it is election night

NEW YORK (AP)—CNN is marking President Barack Obama's 100th day in office with prime-time coverage that will recall last year's primary and general election nights, right down to John King's magic wall.

The network says it will compile a national report card of Obama's performance, using opinion polls and a series of viewer surveys.

The big night is April 29, a week from this Wednesday, preempting regular programming.

Most of the anchors and commentators who were CNN regulars on political nights last year will appear.

"This is the perfect day to have commentary about how the president is doing and the perfect day to ask the public how they think the president is doing," said Sam Feist, CNN's political director. He's been planning the 100th and 200th day specials since shortly after

The 100-day marker is a jour-

nalistic contrivance often used to evaluate new administrations. CNN is giving extra importance to this one because of the two wars and economic meltdown.

ABC News is planning to mark the day with reporting on "Good Morning America," "World News" and "Nightline," a spokeswoman said. Other television networks haven't made their plans clear.

CNN will review actions taken by the Obama administration and give viewers a chance to grade him, the Cabinet and Congress, Feist said.

"It's going to have the energy and excitement of an election night," Feist said.

King, who used a giant touchscreen during the election to keep track of polling data, will use it again to show where money is going from the economic stimulus plan, he said. Bill Schneider will review polling data. Wolf Blitzer, Anderson Cooper and Soledad O'Brien will join King as the network's on-air leaders.

IN CELEBRATION OF HIS NEW LIFE HOWARD September 26, 1955 - April 16, 2009 His memories will forever live in the hearts of his: Common-law-wife : SUSAN PAGUIO ESCUETA Children & Spouses JÉFFREY & KEILANI S. REYES (Keith Simmons, Jasmine Reyes, Kaine Reyes, Keanue Reyes, Jade Reyes, Jordan Reyes, Kevai Reyes, Journey Reyes, Jayden Reyes, Kayden CHARLENE M. & CLEMENTE S. SABLAN (Luis Andrew C. Macaranas & Yolanda S. Cruz, Chantyll Jasmin Q. Sablan & Treat Kaipat, Germaine Margretrose C. Macaranas, Francisco C. Macaranas) NAEDEEN C. MACARANAS & PEDRO T. SKILANG (Enson Howard C. Macaranas) SOHN ROKUE C. MACARANAS & OLIVIA T. PELISAMEN (Ed Patrick T. Pelisamen, Tieshon Rokue P. Macaranas, Akiko Lyvonne P. Macaranas) KEONE HOWARD C. MACARANAS & LEEANDRA A. **SABLAN** STACEY P. ESCUETA ARIANA P. MACARANAS **AUBREY P. MACARANAS** Sisters & In-laws: WILLIAM I. & SUSANA R. MACARANAS

WILLIAM I. & SUSANA R. MACARANAS GILBERT I. & ESTELLA SN. MACARANAS JIMMY I. & ELOIDA D. MACARANAS DARLENE P. MACARANAS ANTHONY I. MACARANAS

CLAUDIA I. MACARANAS & GEORGE DELOS REYES

Brothers / Sister-In-Laws:

GERILIMINA C. CEPEDA
PEDRO P. & JEANNY C. TOGAWA
DIONICIO C. & TRINIDAD C. REYES
JUAN C. & CORAZON CEPEDA
JAMES & BRIGIDA REYES
LUIS CEPEDA & AMY ROBERTS
GARY MIGUEL C. & MELDY CEPEDA
GEORGE TEREGEYO & FRANCISCA CEPEDA

In his new life, he now joins his:

Wife : †MARGARITA C. MACARANAS
Parents : †ANDRES G. & †PETRA I. MACARANAS

Parents-In-Law : †LUIS I & †TRINIDAD C. CEPEDA Brother : †RICHARD I. MACARANAS

Sister : †IRENE M. TUPAS
Brother In-Law : †SANTIAGO R. CRUZ
: †MARIANA C. CRUZ

He also survived and greatly missed by his numerous nieces, nephews, relatives and friends.

Mass of Intentions are being celebrated each morning at Kristo Rai Church in Saipan at 6:00am. Holy Rosary is being prayed each evening at 7:30pm at Kristo Rai Church in Saipan and San Jose Church in Tinian.

On Thursday, April 23, 2009, Memorial services will be held at Kristo Rai Church beginning at 8:00am. Memorial mass will be celebrated at 9:30am followed by the departure of his mortal remains to Tinian.

On Friday, April 24, 2009, his remains will be taken from Tinian Health Center to San Jose Church, Tinian at 7:30am.

Responso service will be at 8:00am followed by the Holy Rosary. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11:00am followed by interment services at Tinian Public Cemetery.

Please Join Us In Prayers.

THE FAMILY

the election.



In this Sunday, Feb. 22, 2009 file photo, Madonna arrives at the Vanity Fair Oscar party, in West Hollywood, Calif.

'Empire of the Sun' author author Ballard dies at 78

LONDON (AP)—Writer J.G. Ballard, best known for the autobiographical novel "Empire Of The Sun," which drew on his childhood detention in a Japanese prison camp in China, died Sunday, his agent said. He was 78.

Ballard was diagnosed with prostate cancer in 2006. He had been ill "for several years" and died in London at the home of his long-term partner, his agent Margaret Hanbury said. She did not give the cause of death.

"His acute and visionary observation of contemporary life was distilled into a number of brilliant, powerful novels which have been published all over the world and saw Ballard gain cult status," Hanbury said.

Ballard was born in Shanghai, China, and was interned there in a prison camp by Japanese troops in 1941—an experience he drew on in the 1984 novel "Empire of The Sun," later adapted as a film by U.S. director Steven Spielberg.

The writer moved to Britain in 1946, where he lived until his death.

Ballard was sometimes controversial. His 1973 novel "Crash," which explored contentious themes about people who derive pleasure from car accidents, was made into a film by David Cronenberg in 1996.

"J.G. Ballard has been a giant on the world literary scene for more than 50 years," Hanbury said.

"Following his early novels of the 60s and 70s, his work then reached a wider audience with the publication of "Empire of the Sun" in 1984, which won several prizes and was made into a film," she said.

The book told the story of a

young boy living through Japanese occupation of Shanghai, detailing his struggle and complex emotions toward the invading forces. "I have—I won't say happy—not unpleasant memories of the camp. I remember a lot of the casual brutality and beatings-up that went on, but at the same time we children were playing a hundred and one games all the time!" Ballard once said of his childhood internment.

Born James Graham Ballard, the author was a sharp critic of modern politics, who once mocked the West's search for "near mythical weapons of mass destruction" in Iraq, in the buildup to the 2003 U.S.-led invasion.

Ballard focused heavily in his work on what he saw as the negative effect on mankind of advancing technology and rejected the belief that humans can constantly improve themselves. Ballard often portrayed social and technological developments as adding to a sense of human worthlessness, rather than aiding the progression of mankind.

"The Enlightenment view of mankind is a complete myth. It leads us into thinking we're sane and rational creatures most of the time, and we're not," Ballard said in a 2003 interview with Australian newspaper The Age.

Ballard was educated at Cambridge University and served as a British Royal Air Force pilot before working as a writer.

He revealed in a January 2008 interview that he had been diagnosed in 2006 with advanced prostate cancer.

Ballard married Helen Matthews in 1954. She died in 1964. He is survived by their three children.

Photographer: Madonna wrong about NY horse fall

tographer who says he captured images of Madonna after she fell off a horse in the Hamptons over the weekend disputes the singer's account of how the accident happened.

Madonna's spokeswoman Liz Rosenberg says the singer took the tumble Saturday when her horse was spooked by paparazzi.

"The accident occurred when the horse Madonna was riding was startled by paparazzi who jumped out of the bushes to photograph the singer, who was

NEW YORK (AP)—A pho- visiting friends," Rosenberg said in a statement.

> The singer, who recently turned 50, suffered "minor injuries" and bruises, Rosenberg said. She was treated at a Southampton hospital and was released, but she still was being monitored by doctors.

Photographer Thomas Hinton told Newsday for its online editions Sunday that "the only photographer present" when the "Material Girl" and "Like a Virgin" singer fell was Steven Klein, her host in the Hamp- had been back in the saddle.

tons, a playground for the rich and famous on the eastern end of Long Island.

Hinton said he received a tip Madonna was in the Hamptons and photographed her from a public road before and after the accident. He said he wasn't there when she fell.

Southampton Town police on Sunday didn't provide details on the horseback riding fall, which wasn't Madonna's first.

The singer was thrown from a horse in England in the summer of 2005, cracking three ribs and breaking her collarbone and a hand.

She saddled up again a couple of months later, when she was a guest on the "Late Show with David Letterman" on CBS. She and the talk show's host rode their horses outside his Manhattan studio. She said it was the first time since her fall that she

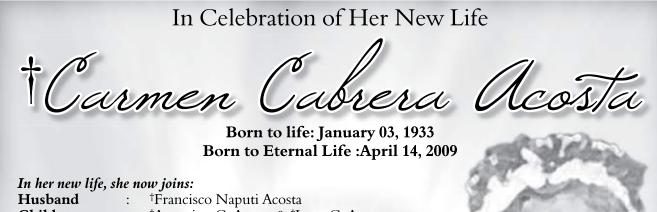
"I have a bit of excitement tainted with fear," she said then before climbing on.

She also said she hadn't been back on a horse since that fall because my record company is not very keen on the idea of me injuring myself."

The Saturday accident was the latest setback for Madonna. Earlier this month, a judge in Malawi denied her request to adopt a 3-year-old girl from the southern African country. Madonna, who adopted her son David there, has said she will appeal the ruling.

And late last year, Madonna and British film director Guy Ritchie, who married in 2000, revealed they were getting divorced.

Rosenberg initially told The Associated Press in an e-mail that Madonna would pay Ritchie a settlement in the range of about \$76 million to \$92 million.



Children †Asuncion C. Acosta & †Jesus C. Acosta

Parents †Ramon Taisague & †Concepcion Camacho Cabrera Parents In-Law: †Jesus Ninaisen & †Veronica Naputi Acosta

Brothers / Sisters & In-Laws:

†Antonio C. & †Carmen DLG. Cabrera †Maria C. & †Joaquin M. Seman †Jose C. & †Remedios S. Cabrera

†Lucia C. Cabrera †Gregorio C. Cabrera †Vicente Sablan †Mariano Sablan †Nicolas T. Palacios

Brother In-Laws / Sister In-Laws:

†Antonio N. Acosta [†]Soledad A. & [†]Jesus B. Blas [†]Calistro A. Crisostimo †Johnny San Agustin

Her memories will forever live in the hearts of her:

Children James & Jesusa R. Cabrera (Jadine, Jermae, Jodie, Jasmine)

Eduardo Cabrera (Katherine, Edward Jr., Eric, Dorsha, Frankie, Taisha, Maybel-

line, Madelyn, Ed Michael, Bin)

Donald & Priscilla Dlc. Cabrera (Chad, Lionel, Amber, Cory) Elizabeth & Kenneth Blake (Muhammad, Jameel, Fatimah, Khalid)

Brother Dr. Calistro Camacho Cabrera Sister Rosario Sablan Palacios

Brother & Sister In-Laws:

Escolastica T. Cabrera , Antonia B. Sablan, Victoria F. Sablan Jose N. & Juana A. Acosta, Miguel & Dolores A. Agulto, Ana A. Crisostimo, Teresa A. San Agustin, Zenaida F. Acosta, Sam & Rosa A. Ares, Willie & Margarita

A. Brown.

She is additionally survived by numerous great grandchildren, nephews, nieces, cousins and friends.

Nightly rosary is being prayed at Mt. Carmel Cathedral at 7:30 pm and mass of special intention is celebrated daily at 6;00am.

On Wednesday, April 22, 2009, her remains will be escorted from Nuestra Senora dela Paz Memorial Chapel at 7:30am to the Mt. Carmel Cathedral for viewing and last respects. Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11:00am, followed by Interment services at the Mt. Carmel Cemetery.

> With Great Appreciation **Children & Family** Dr. Calistro Camacho Cabrera



Michelle Trachtenberg, left, Zac Efron, center, and Leslie Mann, cast members in the new film "17 Again," pose together at the premiere of the film in Los Angeles, Tuesday, April 14, 2009.

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17 Again

4:00 7:05 9:30 1:00 4:00 Mon thru Thurs

Zac Efron, Leslie Mann Fantasy, Comedy • Rated PG 13

Synopsis

A middle-aged father wakes up to find he's seventeen again. So, he enrolls in the same high school as his children to be close to them. And in trying ro recapture his best years, Mike could lose the best things that ever happened to him.



Crank: High Voltage

Action, Thriller, Comedy • Rated R

4:10 7:25 9:55 1:15 4:10 7:25 9:55 1:15 4:10 7:25 1:15 4:10 Mon thru Thurs Jason Statham, Amy Smart

Synopsis

itman Chev Chelios is kidnapped by a mysterious Chinese mobster. Three months later, he wakes up to discover his nearly indestructible heart has been surgically removed and replaced with a battery-operated ticker that requires regular jolts of electricity in order to work. After a dangerous escape from his captors, Chev is on the run again, this time from the charismatic Mexican gang boss El Huron and the Chinese Triads, headed by the dangerous 100 year-old elder Poon Dong



State of Play

4:20 7:10 9:45 1:20 4:20 7:10 9:45 Friday 1:20 4:20 Mon thru Thurs 4:20 7:10

Russel Crowe, Ben Affleck Drama Political • Rated PG 13

D.C. reporter Cal McCaffrey untangles a mystery of murder and collusion among some of the nation's most promising political and corporate figures Handsome, unflappable U.S. Congressman Stephen Collins is the future of his political party: an honorable appointee who serves as the chairman of a mittee overseeing defense spending. All eyes are upon the rising star to be his party's contender for the upcoming presidential race.



Observe And Report

4:15 7:30 10:00 1:10 4:15 7:30 1:10 4:15 7:30 4:15 7:30 Sunday Mon thru Thurs

Seth Rogen, Anna Faris Comedy • Rated R



Fast & Furious

4:25 7:20 9:50 1:30 4:25 7:20 9:50 1:30 4:25 7:20 Saturday Sunday Mon thru Thurs

Vin Diesel, Paul Walker Action, Thriller • Rated PG 13



You Changed My Life

4:30 7:15 9:40 Friday 1:25 4:30 7:15 4:30 7:15 Sunday Mon thru Thurs

John Lloyd Cruz, Sarah Geronimo Romance, Comedy • Rated NR

Monsters vs. Aliens

4:05 7:00 9:35 1:05 4:05 7:00 9:35 1:05 4:05 7:00 Saturday Sunday 4:05 7:00

Reese Witherspoon, Hugh Laurie Action, Comedy, Animated • Rated PG

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Efron turns '17 Again' into No. 1 hit with \$24M

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Zac Efron has taken the box-office crown from his Disney teammate Miley Cyrus.

Efron's comedy "17 Again," in which he plays the youthful version of a middle-aged man magically transformed to high school age, debuted as the top weekend movie with \$24.1 million, according to studio estimates Sunday.

The No. 1 opening for the Warner Bros. movie solidifies the bigscreen potential for Efron, who rose to fame with Disney's "High School Musical" series.

"There's no question that Zac's a star," said Dan Fellman, head of distribution for Warner Bros. "He's such a hardworking, talented individual. He certainly has given his all to promote this movie."

Universal had the No. 2 movie with Russell Crowe and Ben Affleck's Washington thriller "State of Play," which pulled in \$14.1 million. Crowe plays a reporter investigating a series of deaths linked to an old college friend (Affleck) who's now a rising star in Congress.

Cyrus' "Hannah Montana: The Movie" slipped from first place to fourth with \$12.7 million. That lifted the domestic total for Cyrus' movie spinoff of her Disney Channel show to \$56.1 million after 10 days in theaters.

"Hannah Montana" finished just behind DreamWorks Ani-

- 1. "17 Again," \$24.1 million.
- "State of Play," \$14.1 million.
- "Monsters vs. Aliens," \$12.9 million.
- "Hannah Montana: The Movie," \$12.7 million.
- "Fast & Furious," \$12.3 million.
- "Crank: High Voltage," \$6.5 million.
- "Observe and Report," \$4.1 million.
- "Knowing," \$3.5 million.
- "I Love You, Man," \$3.4 million.
- 10. "The Haunting in Connecticut," \$3.2 million.

which took in \$12.9 million to raise its domestic haul to \$162.7 million. Estimates for "Hannah Montana" and "Monsters vs. the movies could switch rankings when final numbers are reported Monday.

Jason Statham had a so-so opening for his action sequel "Crank: High Voltage," which came in at No. 6 with \$6.5 million, \$4 million less than the first weekend for the 2006 original.

The Lionsgate sequel features Statham in a race to recover his heart, which has been stolen by organ thieves and replaced with a mechanical one.

Hollywood maintained a record box-office pace with just one weekend to go before the busy summer season arrives May 1 with "X-Men Origins: Wolverine," Hugh Jackman's spinoff of the blockbuster "X-Men" franchise.

Overall revenues were at mation's "Monsters vs. Aliens," cent from the same weekend figures will be released Monday.

last year, according to box-office tracker Media By Numbers.

For the year, Media By Numbers is tracking receipts at \$2.92 Aliens" were close enough that billion, 17.3 percent ahead of 2008's and well above the boxoffice pace of 2007, when Hollywood took in a record \$9.7 billion. Accounting for higher ticket prices, movie attendance this year is up 15.6 percent compared to last year's.

> The movie business is poised to top \$10 billion at the box office for the first time in 2009, said Paul Dergarabedian, president of Media By Numbers.

> "It's going to be a record year, because we've never had a start to a year this strong," Dergarabedian said. "Unless the world goes off its axis and spins into the sun, I don't see how we're not going to have a \$10 billion year."

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to \$112 million, up nearly 20 per- Media By Numbers LLC. Final

Capone may have had 1 last hit-

CHICAGO (AP)—He never sang to the feds, but it turns out Al Capone had a song in his heart. All it took was a stint in Alcatraz to bring it out.

Now, more than 70 years later, the tender love song that the ruthless crime boss penned while sitting in the pen is being recorded and released on CD. And an inscribed copy of the music and lyrics to "Madonna Mia" is up for sale at \$65,000.

"It's a beautiful song, a tearjerker," said Rich Larsen of Caponefanclub.com, who helped line up musicians and singers to record it.

The story of "Madonna Mia" begins in a cell in Alcatraz, where Scarface was sent after getting pinched for tax evasion. Capone, who loved opera and jazz and whose speakeasies hired musicians like Louis Armstrong, apparently had time to kill.

Capone could read music and liked to play a banjo and a mandola, which is like a mandolin, only bigger. According to Larsen, who is working on a documentary about Capone's influence on music in the 1920s and '30s, the gangster begged the warden for permission to



An undated photo provided April 15, 2009, by Kenneth W. Rendell, Inc., shows a framed photo of Al Capone and sheet music for a song "Madonna Mia" written in pencil by Capone while he was at Alcatraz

form a small band. The warden relented, the inmates sent away for instruments, and Capone made music behind bars.

Enter Vincent Casey. As part of his training to become a Jesuit priest, Casey would visit Alcatraz to offer spiritual counsel to prisoners in the 1930s. Casey and Capone talked in the mobster's cell every Saturday for two years, becoming good friends, said Casey's son, Mike Casey, a retired airline employee in Temecula, Calif.

"My father spoke very highly of him," Casey said. "It was incredible. This criminal murdered many people, but he told me when you got to know the man in the cellblock on Alcatraz, he was very humble and polite and courteous."

One Christmas, Capone presented his friend with a piece of sheet music. The lyrics told of a man's undying love for his "Madonna Mia."



Venezuela's President Hugo Chavez, right, hands President Barack Obama the book titled "The Open Veins of Latin America" by Uruguayan writer Eduardo Galeano, during an UNASUR countries meeting at the Summit of the Americas on Saturday, April 18, 2009 in Port-of-Spain, Trinidad and Tobago.

Chavez gift to Obama makes book best-seller

PORT-OF-SPAIN, Trinidad (AP)—A book by an Uruguayan journalist that Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez gave to President Barack Obama is now the No. 2 seller on Amazon.com.

It's an astounding jump for "Open Veins of Latin America: Five Centuries of the Pillage of a Continent," by Eduardo Galeano.

The paperback edition was ranked 54,295 on the online

retailer before Chavez gave Obama a Spanish-language edition of the 1971 book on Saturday. It had jumped to No. 2 by Sunday.

The English hardcover edition is listed as out of print.

Galeano's book documents how foreign interests have dominated and afflicted Latin America since the Spanish conquest. It's a favorite among leftists.

Actor's union board endorses deal with studios

Prince Charles LONDON (AP)—A group of leading architects on Sunday accused Prince Charles of using his royal position to attack plans to develop a former army barsaid in a statement. racks in London.

Architects including Norman Foster, Zaha Hadid and Frank Gehry are among 10 signatories to a letter criticizing the prince for speaking out against the plans to convert the site in a coveted part of London into luxury homes.

Architects criticize

The prince has criticized a modern glass and steel design being used in the development in the Chelsea district, which neighbors the Royal Chelsea Hospital, a historic building designed by Christopher Wren, 17th century architect of St. Paul's Cathedral.

Charles has urged planners to use traditional brick and stone as they convert the barracks into a hotel and 650 homes. The Sunday Times newspaper reported that the prince has also raised concern with the Qatari royal family, which owns the site.

The development has been designed by architect Richard Rogers, a member of the House of Lords, known for projects including Heathrow's new Terminal 5, London's Millennium Dome and the European Court of Human Rights, in Strasbourg, France.

"It is essential in a modern democracy that private comments and behind the scenes lobbying by the prince should not be used to skew the course of an open and democratic planning process that is currently under way," the group of architects said in their letter, which was circulated on Sunday.

Charles has often been outspoken on planning issues, criticizing as "monstrous" proposals made during the process to develop an extension to Britain's National Gallery. The royal has previously criticized Rogers over his proposals to develop a public square next to St. Paul's Cathedral.

In their letter, the architects said the prince should send any criticisms to local planning officers, just like any normal member of the public.

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The Screen Actors Guild's board of directors narrowly voted Sunday to endorse a deal with Hollywood studios on movie and prime-time TV show productions, the union

The tentative deal, which includes pay raises and other compensation hikes, follows the Internet provisions earlier agreed to by writers, directors and another actors union and will expire on June 30, 2011.

That expiration date, one of the final points of contention in negotiations, means SAG's contract will expire around the same time as other unions, maintaining the future threat of

'We're eager to get our members back to work and to focus now on the challenges ahead, particularly on initiating a comprehensive effort to thoughtfully plan for the future," the Guild's interim national executive director David White said in the statement released after the deal was approved by a 53 percent vote.

The Alliance of Motion Picture and Television Producers, which represents Hollywood producers, praised the Guild's directors' endorsement.

'With this agreement in place, our entire industry can work together to overcome the enormous economic challenges before us," the group's spokesman Jesse Hiestand said in a statement.

The agreement, which was first outlined Friday, would give the union's 120,000 members a 3 percent wage increase upon ratification and a 3.5 percent increase in the two-year agreement's second

year, the guild said.

Members would also get a 0.5 percent pension and health contribution increase.

SAG had sought improvements on provisions covering shows that rerun online on sites like CBS Corp.'s TV.com and Hulu.com, a joint venture of General Electric Co.'s NBC Universal and News Corp.'s Fox. Seeking such improvements were a key part of the writers' strike that shut down production for 100 days early last year.

But the Guild eventually gave up trying to improve on a deal other unions, including the 70,000-member American Federation of Television and Radio Artists, had already accepted, especially after internal elections last fall shifted control to a moderate group.

Avant-garde dance legend Cunningham turns 90

NEW YORK (AP)—For Merce Cunningham, dance isn't about telling a story or interpreting emotion—it's simply about movement.

His choreography, which revolutionized modern dance, is frequently rooted in the toss of a coin or a roll of the dice with no regard for the accompanying music.

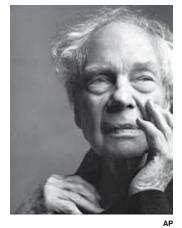
Cunningham turned 90 on Thursday, an event paired with the premiere of a rare longer piece titled "Nearly Ninety," in which he collaborates with an architect to place the musicians up on stage with the dancers.

Trevor Carlson, the executive director of the Merce Cunningham Dance Company, said the title is a playing on words.

"He hasn't talked about it, but he's made nearly 90 minutes of dance, and while he was making it, he was nearly 90 years of age," said Carlson.

"He's making a fun little jab at us," Carlson says, referring to the colleagues who have been making a big deal of the occasion.

The new work, which premieres at the Brooklyn Academy of Music, includes new music from Led Zeppelin's John Paul Jones, the rock band Sonic



This photo provided by the Merce shows choreographer Merce Cunningham in New York in 2009.

Youth, and Japanese composer Takehisa Kosugi. The costumes are by fashion designer Romeo Gigli, and the set design, in the form of a massive multilevel sculpture, is by Italian architect Benedetta Tagliabue.

Frequently hailed as the greatest living choreographer, Cunningham's career spans more than six decades and 150 works, and has included collaborations with such artists as Robert Rauschenberg and Jasper Johns, and bands like Radiohead and Sigur Ros.

Perhaps his most notable collaboration, however, was with avant-garde composer John Cage, his longtime partner until Cage's death in 1992.

Along the way, he has embraced technology, in some cases using a computer program to push the possibilities of what the human body can do.

"His interest has been, and remains even at 90, trying to work on something that is unfamiliar to him and that is new," Carlson said. "I think he hopes that (his latest) is a new experience for him.

Today, Cunningham, who left Martha Graham's company in 1945 to go his own way, is confined to a wheelchair after a lifetime of pounding on hard stages, but he continues to work regularly, offering a behindthe-scenes look at his training process with a webcast titled "Mondays with Merce."

His choreography is demanding and he pushes the boundaries of physical possibility—using chance to go beyond what is familiar and comfortable in deciding whether a run, a jump or a fall should come first in series of steps.

Girl is eager to defend kids ridiculed for being different

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: I am a 12-year-old girl and have a 10-year-old brother with autism. At school there are many kids who have special needs, and I try my best to befriend them.

A large number of students are unbelievably cruel to these people. They call them names and make fun of them right to their faces. Sometimes they don't do it in front of the person, but I also think it is



very rude to talk about people behind their backs.

When I see or hear it happen, I would like to be able to say something to help them understand that what they are doing is not acceptable. What should I do when I am caught in these situations?

TRYING TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN OHIO

DEAR TRYING TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE: People who ridicule others because they are physically or developmentally disabled sometimes do it for attention because it makes them feel superior or because they don't realize the damage they are doing.

One way to correct the perpetrators would be to speak up and say you don't think what they are doing is funny because you have a brother who struggles every day with the challenges of autism. You should also talk to a counselor or the principal of your school, describe what has been happening and suggest that the student body could benefit from sensitivity training regarding discrimination, which is offered at many schools.

DEAR ABBY: My sister-in-law was unhappy in her relationship, so my husband and I offered to let her stay with us. We moved her and all her stuff into our home. We even kicked our 3-year-old out of his room so she could have privacy.

She stayed with us for two nights, then went to her mother's. She was gone a week, then came back and spent one night. Then she returned to her mom's for two weeks. Most of her things are still here, but she hasn't said she's living with her mother permanently.

Do I still have a houseguest? I'd like to give my son his room back, but I don't want to be rude to my possible guest.

POSSIBLE HOSTESS

DEAR POSSIBLE HOSTESS: Your little boy needs his room back! Unless you are ready to establish some boundaries, your sister-in-law could bounce back and forth indefinitely.

It's time for you and your husband to talk to his sister and his mother and determine where his sister plans to nest, because it is unfair to use your son's bedroom as a storage locker.

DEAR ABBY: Several months ago, my husband—whose eyesight is fading rapidly—was forced to depend on a cane indicating that he is blind. Since then, we have encountered many individuals who have no idea what a red-tipped white cane means.

We have heard people say things like, "Isn't that fancy!" or, "I love the way you decorated your cane for the Christmas season."

Abby, please inform your readers that a white cane with a red tip is not a fashion accessory or a personal whim. Its purpose is to allow a vision-impaired person to move around independently. Vision impairment also affects a person's balance. People have brushed past my husband, bumped into him and expressed annoyance because his slowness held them up.

I'm sure a "word to the wise" from you would make a decided

NANCY IN LACONIA, N.H.

DEAR NANCY: I'm pleased to help you spread the word, and you have described the situation very well. Allow me to add this: It's rude—and can be dangerous—to touch a stranger without permission. Not only could it cause the person to react in a hostile fashion, if he or she is blind, it could cause a nasty fall.

22 TUESDAY, APRIL 21, 2009 SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

HELP ME (HIC) GET (HIC) RID OF (HIC) THESE DARN (HIC) HIC (HIC) HICCUPS!

OUR OCEANS ARE FILLED WITH GARBAGE, WE'VE CREATED A HOLE IN THE OZONE THAT'S FRYING THE PLANET, NUCLEAR WASTE IS PILING UP WITHOUT ANY SAFE WAY TO GET RID OF IT



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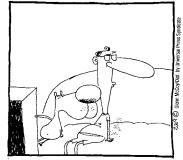


By Bryan Basset

By Bill Waterson

THAT DOESN'T ?!

The Duplex





I CAN'T THINK OF A POLITE WAY TO ASK JOAQUIN PHOENIX TO GET OFF OF OUR COUCH.

By Glenn McCoy

ugene Sheffer 21 Asian

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Brutus

Yesterday's answer 4-21

19 20 28 | 29 30 32 48 49

STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Andie Macdowell, 51; Tony Danza, 58; Iggy Pop, 62; Charles Grodin, 74

Happy Birthday: You have to take a strong position this year, regardless of what everyone around you does. You can build a strong support system and position yourself for the future. Strive for perfection and practicality with emphasis on originality and detail. The little extras will help you stand out and be recognized. Your numbers are 6, 15, 20, 24, 26, 38, 43

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Not much will be out in the open for you to see. You rely on your intuition to guide you. Keep things to yourself to avoid rumors and interference. Trust what you know as fact. ••••

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): You have a chance to make some changes by talking to people in a position to help you. A short trip will pay off. The knowledge you gain can benefit you in the future.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): You are better off going it alone. You can make a much greater statement if you take charge and figure things out for yourself. A problem with a younger or older relative or friend will lead you to do something to relieve the stress you've been feeling.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Stop procrastinating when you have so much to gain by taking the next step. An interesting proposal will come your way. You can make a good impression by suggesting unusual but simple ways to make things more efficient.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Listen to what's being said rather than taking the spotlight. If you speak too openly about your plans, you will face opposition. Someone may not be honest with you about a contract or financial situation. VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Caution

must be taken when you are considering making property or domestic changes or purchases. A chance to do something romantic will lead to a much better relationship with the person you adore. 🗪

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Network all you can. Dealing with children, friends and lovers will prove to be interesting and will enable you to take a position of authority. Start a new interest that offers you a creative outlet. •••

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): You have to get out and interact with others if you want to promote your project. By taking time to nurture a personal or business partnership, you can develop an excellent rapport that will complement what you are trying to accomplish. Correct domestic problems. •••••

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You'll be prone to exaggerate and, if you do, someone will call your bluff putting you in an awkward and embarrassing position. You will have to deal with family problems. This is not the time to ignore what's going on around you. ••

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Someone from your past will remind you of something you always wanted to do. A unique way of approaching something or

Sudoku is a number-placing

puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with

several given numbers. The

object is to place the numbers

1 to 9 in the empty squares so

that each row, each column

and each 3x3 box contains the

same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis

Sudoku increases from Monday

to Saturday.

EUGENIA

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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someone will grab attention that can prompt a deal or proposal. Financially beneficial changes can be made. 🛇 🗬 🖎

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Uncertainty may cause emotional issues to rise to the surface. Don't give in to anyone trying to push his or her ideas on you but be careful not to let your anger show. Deception is apparent so check facts carefully. PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): The more

vocal you are, the more you will accomplish. You will have a way of putting things that will be undeniably clever and should help you win whatever war you are waging. This is a great time for advancement, looking for work or starting your own business.

Birthday Baby: You are solid as a rock and determined to follow whatever path you choose. You are stubborn but caring, open to suggestions but not to criticism. You won't settle for less than what you want.

Eugenia's Web sites: astroadvice.com for fun, eugenialast.com for confidential consultations

By DAVID

Conceptis Sudoku

Difficulty Level ★★

By Dave Green

	9	1				5	4	
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Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

8 1 2 5 3 7 4 9 6 5 3 4 9 1 6 8 2 7 1 6 8 2 4 9 3 7 5 4 7 5 3 6 1 9 8 2 3 2 9 8 7 5 6 4 1 7 | 5 | 3 | 6 | 8 | 4 | 2 | 1 | 9 2 8 1 7 9 3 5 6 4 9 4 6 1 5 2 7 3 8

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WONDERWORD

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and C LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The left

WNOITNEVNOCRAF DOOWYLLOHEUGAEL EIRHANNAHNINE GSELBISSOPMIKCE NILADPITATIDEOS IVFISSNLEHCARRN WEECLAHRCMEEAAA ULRRYOLHECILMLH PERELCALIFORNIA TTIMCRAOYWEECNM OEEMLHVLMGOESEA W S R O E M O H D L I H C M B NATCALEISSACSIA

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YTICEENECSYLILL

ETEEWSLETERGMYA

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- Saipan Tribune: All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

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All advertising in the Saipan Tribune are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

Iguodala's jumper helps Sixers stun Magic

Andre Iguodala and the Philadelphia 76ers left the Magic stunned and the home fans silenced.

Iguodala made a 22-foot jumper with 2.2 seconds remaining, and the 76ers

rallied from an 18-point deficit to beat Orlando 100-98 in Game 1 of their opening-round playoff series Sunday.

Iguodala had 20 points, eight rebounds and eight assists, and Louis Williams scored 18 to help the 76ers beat the Magic for the first time in four tries this season—and when it mattered most. Hedo Turkoglu's fadeaway 3-pointer missed at the buzzer, and Magic fans stood in disbelief before filing out quietly.

Dwight Howard had a career playoff-high 31 points and 16 rebounds, and rookie Courtney Lee scored 18 for the Magic. Game 2 in the best-of-seven series is Wednesday night in Orlando.

Orlando's inside-out game seemed to be too much for Philadelphia

Lee's shooting and Howard's muscle highlighted a 15-3 run in the third quarter that built an 18-point. With Howard banging on the inside, the Sixers were forced to throw double-teams at him, allowing the Magic's perimeter players to break free.

When they did, Howard again took charge.

Rim-rocking dunks, smooth hook shots and even some uncharacteristic crisp free throws by the Magic's center capped the spurt. The only time Philadelphia actually slowed Howard was when Samuel Dalembert inadvertently poked him in the eye and was called for a foul.

Maybe that was all Philadelphia

Howard made the pair of free throws to put Orlando ahead 79-61 and then went to the locker room with a towel to his face. He returned to the game after a few minutes.

The Sixers rolled off eight straight points in the fourth and eventually tied the game at 91 with fewer than four minutes left on a layup by Andre Miller. After Howard's dunk over Theo Ratliff put the Magic ahead 98-95 with 49.1 seconds remaining, Donyell Marshall answered with a 3-pointer for Philadelphia and Iguodala did the rest.



Philadelphia 76ers forward Andre Iguodala celebrates after making the winning shot during the final seconds of Game 1 of a firstround NBA playoff basketball game against the Orlando Magic in Orlando, Fla., Sunday, April 19, 2009.

Starting Magic forwards Rashard Lewis and Turkoglu looked rusty in their first games in more than a week after being sidelined with injuries, part of the reason Orlando was pushed back to the Eastern Conference's No. 3 spot. The Magic could never make up the difference.

The sixth-seeded Sixers were able to withstand an early Magic run and a strong start from Howard. Thaddeus Young had consecutive three-point plays to help Philadelphia rebound from five down to eventually take a 27-21 lead in the first quarter.

But any momentum the Sixers built evaporated on the final play of the period.

In a rare display of speed and power, 34-year-old Magic backup guard Anthony Johnson took it end-to-end and dunked over Ratliff. The throttling one-hand slam in the waning seconds of the quarter had the Magic's bench so exhilarated that coach Stan Van Gundy had to shove a few of his own players back who had made their way onto the court in celebration.

It was premature.

The Sixers hung tough and bumped back, with Iguodala going for a pair of reverse dunks in a backand-forth second quarter. Philadelphia had an answer for everything Orlando threw its way. Everything, that is, except Howard.

The Magic's dunk machine moved players at will, shooting 7-for-9 in the first half with 18 points and seven rebounds. Howard gave a jolt to a late Orlando run by blocking a layup attempt by Iguodala in which Howard practically soared over teammate Courtney Lee to throw the shot out of bounds and help the Magic take a 50-46 halftime lead.

Lakers 113, Jazz 100

At Los Angeles, Kobe Bryant scored 24 points, Trevor Ariza added 21 and Pau Gasol 20 as Los Angeles defeated Utah.

Allowing a Phil Jackson-coached team to win Game 1 of any series doesn't bode well for the opposition. Jackson's teams have never lost a playoff series after winning Game 1, going 41-for-41 with Chicago and the Lakers.

The Lakers had their way against the Jazz, leading by 22 points at halftime and then answered resoundingly both times Utah got within nine in the sec-

Bryant's total gave him 3,710 career postseason points, moving him past Magic Johnson and into ninth on the NBA's list. He trails only Kareem Abdul-Jabbar (4,070) and Jerry West (4,457) for most points in the playoffs with the Lakers.

Carlos Boozer led the Jazz with 27 points and Deron Williams added 16 points and a career playoff-high 17 assists. Both were in foul trouble, with Boozer getting his third just before halftime when Williams already had two.

Hawks 90, Heat 64

At Atlanta, with Josh Smith delivering one rim-shaking dunk after another and plenty of teammates chipping in, the Hawks made Miami look like a one-

The Hawks tied a franchise record for fewest points allowed in a playoff game, holding Miami's Dwyane Wade, the league's leading scorer, to 19 points.

Game 2 is Wednesday night in At-

Miami was held to its fewest points of the season—its previous low was 68—and the Hawks equaled the mark they set against the Charlotte Hornets in a 1998 playoff victory.

Smith scored 23 points and every other Atlanta starter also was in double figures. Wade made just 8 of 21 shots, and Michael Beasley added 10 points on a night in which the Heat showed its youth, shooting just 37 percent and managing seven points in the final period.

Nuggets 113, Hornets 84

At Denver, Chauncey Billups scored 36 points and made a career-best eight 3-pointers in the second-biggest blowout in the Nuggets' playoff history.

Capitalizing on their first home-court edge in a playoff series in 21 years, the Nuggets nearly bested their previous biggest margin of victory, a 141-111 wallop of San Antonio back in 1985.

Denver used a 21-0 run spanning the third and fourth quarters to build a 95-69 cushion, a run that was highlighted by Billups' seventh and eighth 3s.

Billups was 8-for-9 from beyond the arc, and the best long-range performance of Billups' career helped negate All-Star point guard Chris Paul's big game.

The All-Star had 21 points and 11 assists but also an abundance of angst as the Nuggets dominated the boards, set the tempo and ran away with it in the second half.



HILTON HEAD IS-LAND, S.C.

next week off. After what he did at than \$2.2 million in prize money. Harbour Town Golf Links he might Gay says he's ready for his latest want to reconsider.

Gay won his second PGA Tour title in a record-breaking show Sunday at the Verizon Heritage.

He shot a 7-under 64 Sunday to set tournament marks for scoring (20under 264), margin of victory (10 strokes) and fewest bogeys over 72 holes (two).

It's the latest plateau for the 37-yearold Gay, who toiled for more than a decade before notching his first career win in his 293rd start.

"I've been moving, kind of going, up, up, up, the last three years," Gay said. And Gay thinks things could get even better.

Gay's win at the Mayakoba Golf Clas-

Gay wins Verizon Heritage with record pace

(AP)—Brian sic in Mexico last year propelled him to Gay's taking a career year with a record high of more

> triumph to push him to bigger things. He "played a lot better than my results, and I just came here and blew it out," he said. "So it was nice."

Future success figured to come easily for Gay, the former Florida Gator who remains the only player to win two Southeastern Conference championships. He made the Walker Cup team in 1993.

Gay didn't make the tour until 1999 and had just 17 top 10s over his first nine seasons.

He finally broke through at Mayakoba. But bad luck for Gay, that triumph came the same weekend Tiger Woods' finished off the field at the World Golf Championships' Match Play event.

"Yeah, it's a bit of validation,"

player won by double digit strokes, ac- go play golf." cording to the PGA Tour, and the largest margin of victory since Phil Mickelson won the 2006 BellSouth Classic by 13 strokes.

Gay bested Loren Roberts' mark of 19 under in winning the 1996 Verizon Heritage. Gay's 10-shot edge over Luke Donald (66) and Briny Baird (68) shattered the seven strokes five-time champ Davis Love won by in 1998.

Besides a \$1.026 million first prize, Gay earned a spot in next year's Masters, something he also didn't get with the Mayakoba victory. It will be his first time at Augusta National.

"I've had a lot of heartache not getting in that tournament, winning (and) not getting in, and missing by one spot

on the money list two times," he said. "I just figured, who cares? What's go-It was the ninth time since 1970 a ing to happen is going to happen, just

Gay moved into the lead Friday and carried a three-stroke margin over Tim Wilkinson into the final round. Gay's game plan? Don't do what he did at Mayakoba, holding on despite some passive, wait-for-pars play.

"I told myself to keep my head down and keep plugging along," Gay said. "I didn't watch any (leader) boards. I didn't watch anything."

Soon enough, Gay was out of sight

He essentially wrapped things up two holes into the round—and never gave the chasers a chance to climb back in.

Gay struck his approach to 10 feet on No. 1 for a birdie to increase the lead to four. A hole later, he rolled

in a curling, uphill 57-footer for an eagle-3, raising his putter as the ball disappeared into the cup.

Playing partner Wilkinson, facing a 10-footer for birdie, never had a chance with the cheers for Gay still in his ears and the margin increased to six shots.

A birdie on the par-5 fifth gave Gay a seven-shot edge that no one could dent.

"Once he started like that, it was just sort of playing your own game and just get the best score possible," Wilkinson said.

Gay moved into the lead Friday with a run of five straight birdies and continued his precise, accurate play throughout. He made only two bogeys—one Friday and one Sunday—and bettered Roberts' low of three bogeys for the 1996 tournament.

The tour began keeping hole-byhole scoring records in 1983.

"I'm happy for the guy. He's playing phenomenal," Baird said.

Lester pitches Red Sox past Orioles



BOSTON (AP)—Jon Lester pitched seven shutout innings

to return to his winning form in Fenway Park, leading the Boston Red Sox to a 2-1 victory over the Baltimore Orioles on Sunday.

It was the fourth straight victory for the Red Sox, who can complete a sweep of the four-game series on Monday morning in the annual Patriots' Day game.

Dustin Pedroia and Mike Lowell had RBI singles for Boston.

Koji Uehara (2-1) allowed two runs and five hits in seven innings for the Orioles, who lost their fourth consecutive game.

Lester (1-2), who had allowed 11 runs in 12 innings in his first two starts of the season, held the Orioles to four singles while striking out nine. He lost his first start of the year in Fenway against Tampa Bay on April 8, snapping a 16-game regular-season home unbeaten streak.

Yankees 7, Indians 3

At New York, pinch-hitter Jorge Posada's drive to right in the seventh inning was ruled a two-run homer by video replay, as the Yankees spoiled former teammate Carl Pavano's return.

Posada sent a high fly to right off Jensen Lewis (1-2) with one out, and the ball was deflected off a fan and back into play. Posada slowed his trot between first and second, looking out to right field, before he saw the homer signal from second base umpire Phil Cuzzi.

Outfielder Trevor Crowe ran toward the infield indicating a fan interfered, and Indians manager Eric Wedge came out to dispute the call, before replay upheld the homer.

Jonathan Albaladejo (1-0) got out of a seventh-inning jam, Brian Bruney pitched the eighth and Mariano Rivera gave up a hit in the ninth to finish the four-hitter.

Rangers 6, Royals 5

At Arlington, Texas, Michael Young hit a leadoff homer in the ninth inning to help Texas rally for the victory.

Young ripped a 1-0 pitch from Kyle Farnsworth (0-3) into the seats in leftcenter for his first career game-winning homer. Young leaped into the air as he approached home plate, diving into a group of teammates there to greet him.

Frank Francisco (1-0) pitched the ninth for the win.

Mike Jacobs and David DeJesus homered for the Royals.

Ian Kinsler connected for the Rangers, who had lost seven of eight.

Tigers 8, Mariners 2

At Seattle, Rick Porcello shut down Seattle for seven innings in just his second major league start, retiring his final 14 batters, and Ramon Santiago had a career-high five RBIs.

The youngest starting pitcher to take the mound for Detroit in almost 30 years, the 20-year-old Porcello (1-1) looked more like a seasoned veteran shutting down Seattle's offense. He gave up one run and five hits.

Leading 5-1, Santiago provided some cushion in the eighth with a three-run double that barely eluded the glove of left fielder Endy Chavez.

Carlos Silva (0-2) allowed four runs and six hits in five innings for the Mariners.

Blue Jays 1, Oakland 0

At Toronto, Ricky Romero pitched seven sharp innings, striking out a careerhigh six and allowing only four hits for the Blue Javs.

Romero (2-0) lowered his ERA to 1.71 before Scott Downs worked a perfect eighth and B.J. Ryan finished for his second save in three chances.

Lyle Overbay singled in Kevin Millar in the second inning for the only run of the game.

Dallas Braden (1-2) gave up one run and five hits in a career-high 7 1-3 innings for Oakland, who had a chance to tie it in the third when Mark Ellis was thrown out at the plate.

Twins 3, Angels 1

At Minneapolis, Glen Perkins pitched through pain in the seventh and scattered four hits over eight innings, guiding the Twins to a three-game sweep of the sputtering Angels.

Bobby Abreu's comebacker bounced off the side of Perkins' left leg, just above the knee, but third baseman Brendan Harris picked it up and threw him out to start the seventh. After the play, Perkins (1-1) walked around gingerly before deciding to continue.

Joe Nathan notched his third save with a hitless ninth, sealing the defeat for Los Angeles and starter Shane Loux (0-1). The Angels right-hander three runs in seven innings.

White Sox 12, Rays 2

At St. Petersburg, Fla., Gavin Floyd took a shutout into the seventh in-



Sunday, April 19, 2009.

ning, and Carlos Quentin and Jim Thome hit back-to-back homers to lead the White Sox.

Floyd (2-1) allowed two runs, coming on Ben Zobrist's homer in the seventh, and six hits in seven innings. Quentin hit his seventh homer of the season—a two-run shot-and Thome followed with his 544th career home run in the eighth inning off Dan Wheeler.

A.J. Pierzynski hit his 99th career homer, helping Chicago take three of four from Tampa Bay. Matt Garza (1-1) gave up seven runs and six hits over 5 2-3 innings in the loss.

Phillies 5, Padres 4

At Philadelphia, Raul Ibanez hit a tworun homer in the ninth inning to give the Philadelphia Phillies a victory over the San Diego Padres.

Ryan Howard started Philadelphia's winning rally with a leadoff single against Edwin Moreno (0-1), who was in because closer Heath Bell had worked three consecutive days. Ibanez followed by hitting a 2-0 pitch into the right-field stands.

Slumping shortstop Jimmy Rollins connected for a pinch-hit solo drive in the eighth for Philadelphia, which ended a three-game skid.

Clay Condrey (2-0) picked up the win working one inning in relief.

Giants 2, Diamondbacks 0

At San Francisco, Randy Johnson took a no-hitter into the seventh inning against his former team, leading the Giants to the win.

Johnson, who allowed one hit in seven innings, was perfect through four. He faced the minimum through six and stranded Augie Ojeda at third after the shortstop doubled to open the seventh.

The 45-year-old Johnson (1-2) got his 296th career win in his first start against the Diamondbacks, who he spent eight seasons with. Bob Howry pitched the eighth and Brian Wilson got the last three outs for his second save.

Max Scherzer (0-1) struck out six in five innings for Arizona, yielding one run and three hits with four walks.

Dodgers 14, Rockies 2

At Los Angeles, Matt Kemp hit a grand slam and a solo homer to help the Dodgers pick up their eighth straight win.

Andre Ethier and Orlando Hudson each drove in three runs for Los Angeles, which has won its first six home games for the first time since the 1947 Brooklyn Dodgers started out 8-0 at Ebbets Field in Jackie Robinson's rookie year.

Nationals 7, Marlins 4

At Washington, Cody Ross hit the tying homer in the eighth inning, then hit a three-run double in the ninth to give the Marlins their seventh straight victory.

Emilio Bonifacio led off the ninth by drawing a walk off Saul Rivera (0-3), and John Baker followed with a double into the gap in left-center to tie the game at 4. After Hanley Ramirez struck out, Ross Gload was walked intentionally before Dan Uggla struck out looking and Jeremy Hermida walked on a 3-2 pitch to load the bases for Ross.

Reds 4, Astros 2

At Houston, Pitcher Micah Owings hit a pinch-hit, two-run double to lead the Reds.

Owings, who won the 2007 NL Silver Slugger award for pitchers, is 2-for-3 as a pinch hitter this season. Geoff Geary (0-1) set up the tiebreaking hit with a throwing error that allowed Jerry Hairston Jr. to score before Owings came to the plate.

Braves 11, Pirates 1

At Pittsburgh, Martin Prado and David Ross hit three-run homers to support Javier Vazquez's six shutout innings, and the Braves snapped a five-game losing streak.

The Braves hadn't scored in 22 innings and the Pirates hadn't allowed a run in 21 innings, a pair of streaks that ended when Jeff Francoeur's two-run single keyed a three-run first inning against Zach Duke (2-1).

Brewers 4, Mets 2

At New York, Mike Cameron homered against his former team and Todd Coffey escaped a pair of late jams during an eight-out save, helping the Brewers avoid the sweep.

Jeff Suppan (1-2) bounced back from two poor starts to begin the season, pitching into the seventh inning. Milwaukee improved to 28-51 against the Mets since moving to the NL in 1998.

FBI investigating extortion attempt against Pitino



(AP)—The FBI is investigating the estranged wife of Louisville's equipment manager regarding

extortion allegations leveled by coach Rick Pitino, her attorney said Sunday.

Attorney Thomas Clay said he spoke with the FBI about the matter last week but had no further comment. He represents Karen Sypher, the wife of longtime equipment manager Tim Sypher.

Clay acknowleged Karen Sypher was contacted by the FBI after Pitino

LOUISVILLE, Ky. filed a complaint last month that he was being targeted for extortion.

"I can't be more specific than they talked to her," Clay said. "Yes, there could be a criminal prosecution."

FBI spokesman David Beyer confirmed there was an ongoing investigation into Pitino's complaint and that no other law enforcement agencies were involved. Beyer did not name the target of the investigation.

Pitino said in a statement Saturday night that he planned to keep the matter private but was forced into action when the individual-whom he did not name-decided to go to the media. The statement did not detail the nature of the threats.

"I recently learned that the individual behind this extortion attempt has already gone to the media with false, defamatory and outrageous allegations in an attempt to pressure me to cave in to this scheme," Pitino said.

WDRB-TV in Louisville said on its Saturday night telecast that it has conducted an interview with Karen Sypher but chose not to put it on the air.

News director Barry Fulmer said Sunday he's not sure when—or even if—the tape will be shown.

"Officially, I don't feel comfort-

able airing something that I can't prove yet," Fulmer said. "I didn't want us to be irresponsible and start throwing out stories and accusations that I couldn't confirm. That's really all there is to it."

The Syphers are in the process of getting a divorce, Clay said.

"I am devastated by the bizarre allegations that my estranged wife is making against Coach Pitino and myself," Tim Sypher said in a statement. "I intend to defend the allegations vigorously."

Pitino's attorney Steve Pence did not immediately return a phone message Sunday from The Associated Press

Tim Sypher has worked with Pitino for the past 12 years. He served as Pitino's personal assistant with the Boston Celtics from 1997-2001, then followed Pitino to Louisville in 2001 to become the team's equipment manager.

Tim Sypher previously worked as an investigator for the state of Massachusetts for a decade. He and Karen Sypher have a daughter. Karen Sypher also has four sons.

Pitino just finished his eighth season in Louisville. The Cardinals won both the Big East regular season and conference tournament championships before falling to Michigan State in the NCAA tournament regional finals.

Saipan Grand named official hotel



The Saipan Grand Hotel has been designated as the official hotel of the 2009 Oceania Basketball Tournament. The designation was made by the Basketball Association of the Northern Mariana Islands, the or-

ganizers of the tournament.

The Saipan Grand Hotel will house all of the players, coaches, team officials, and FIBA Oceania personnel, almost 200 in number, who will be visiting Saipan for the Tournament. A sizeable number of media personnel, fans, friends, and families are expected to accompany the teams to Saipan, and they will be offered special rates at the hotel.

The hotel will also be the site of the Oceania Basketball Congress, which is held once every four years, at which FIBA Oceania will elect its officials and conduct other business.

The tournament will be held from June 20 to 28, 2009, and will feature visiting men's and women's teams from Australia, New Zealand, Tahiti, New Caledonia, Fiji, Guam, and Palau to compete with the CNMI's best. Held just once every four years, the tournament is the only opportunity for Pacific Island national to play against the strong



Rangamar

Australia and New Zealand teams. The tournament will be contested at the Marianas High School Gymnasium and Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium, both just a short distance from the hotel.

The Saipan Grand Hotel, a Tan Holdings company, is one of Saipan's finest. Its 224 tropically themed rooms, specifically designed with comfort in mind, each display picturesque views of the ocean, enabling the visitor to enjoy Saipan's beautiful sunsets.

Its restaurants and bars include the Aoi Japanese Restaurant, the Mango Tree Café, Club-V, Southern Cross Karaoke Bar, and the Beach BBQ. Guests can participate in a wide variety of fun and exciting island-style activities, especially water sports. The hotel offers all the amenities that one expects at a first-class hotel.

BANMI extends its particular thanks to Ed Cho, general manager of the Saipan Grand, and Takahiro Tsuchiya, the hotel's sales and marketing manager, as well as to Jerry Tan and Ed Arriola Jr., of Tan Holdings.

BANMI president Elias Rangamar noted, "The entire sports community of the CNMI is grateful to Tan Holdings and the Saipan Grand Hotel for making this major commitment to our community. They are helping to make the 2009 Oceania Tournament a memorable one, in which the entire CNMI can take pride."

Gold sponsors for the tournament so far include CNMI business anchors Tan Holdings and the Joeten Charitable Foundation. Rangamar expressed his appreciation to these companies, and noted that additional sponsorship opportunities are available for companies who want to take advantage of associating with this prestigious tournament.

For further information about sponsorship opportunities, contact Rangamar at 664-2502, or Mike White at 234-6547. *(PR)*

MILLER

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bles crowns with Adele Hudkins and Alina Ishikawa prevailing in the girls' 12-and-under, Chris Cajigan and Carl Dela Cruz ruling the boys' 12-and-under, and Minor sisters Thea and Theecel topping the girls' 18-and-under.

The girls' 12-and-under title game was also played in three sets with Hudkins and Ishikawa surviving Gabrielle Race

and Neghar Rastguiy, 1-6, 7-5, 6-3.

In the boys' 12-and-under division finals, Cajigan and Dela Cruz needed only two sets to trounce brothers Jake and Aaron lee, 6-2, 7-6.

Thea and Theecel also had an easy win in the finals, walloping Melody Johnson and Dina Jones, 6-0, 6-1.

After last weekend's doubles tournament, Northern Mariana Islands Tennis Association will be holding the singles events this weekend.

The singles tournament offers 1.5 times the regular ranking points, which

will be crucial in selecting players who will play for the CNMI in the boys and girls' 18-and-under and 14-and-under competitions in the North Pacific Qualifying Tournament in Guam in June.

Meanwhile, NMITA would like to thank Deloitte and Touche Komatsu, Tano Group, Deepstar Submarine, Java Joe's, Spectrum Electric, Marianas Medical Center, Law Offices of Stephen J. Nutting, C.N. Lee International, Tan Holdings, and Aces Tennis Academy for supporting this year's championships.

REZNE

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Kai Staal (18:18) and Cooper Graf (18:59). Staal and Graf finished ahead of 10 other pros, including 2009 champions Sam Gardner (20:20) and Renata Bucher (20:36).

In the bike leg, Calage was 32nd among 72 riders, but was third in the relay with his time of 2:07:13.

Mancao capped the team's recordbreaking finish after submitting 1:03:26 in the run leg. The Marianas High School middle distance runner was 10th overall and second in the relay.

Jack "Road Runner Bunny" Kabiriel was first in the run in the relay division with his time of 1:02:21. But he and teammates Florence Antonio and

Andrew Buitrago finished only third overall. Antonio clocked in at 2:10:33 in the bike leg, while Buitrago timed in at 19:02 in the swim portion for a total time of 3:33:02.

Graf, Cesar Fortaleza, and Cooper Schrauderback were runner-ups with their total time of 3:29:26. Fortaleza submitted 2:05:37 in the bike portion, while Schrauderback recorded 1:03:37 in the run part.

The team of Staal, biker Mario Galang, who was first in the bike in the relay with his 2:02:11, and runner Jerry Diaz placed fourth with their total time of 3:37:51.

Villafria did the bike portion of the race this time, while teammate Shogo Ando took the swim and run parts en route to a fifth place finish (4:09:37), while the trio of Joshua Berger (28:26),

Dave Burger (2:56:35), and John Douglas (1:11:48) finished sixth with a total time of 4:38:20.

In the individual division, 15 earned slots to this year XTERRA World Championships in Maui, Hawaii after topping their respective age groups.

The list included Federico Fernandez (15 to 19, 4:19:05), Quincy Johnson (20 to 24, 4:23:37), Keita Takahashi (25 to 29, 3:34:31), Masato Samata (30-34, 3:30:48), Butch Sublemente (35 to 39, 3:32:06), Dai Matsui (40 to 44, 3:42:54), Tatsuya Sugimori (45 to 49, 3:51:15), and Florian Braig (55 to 59, 4:11:56); women's Rina Tabuchi (20 to 24, 5:24:24), Mayuka Fujiwara (25 to 29, 5:19:01), Tomoyo Shibata (30 to 34, 4:15:31), Mai Chiku (35 to 29, 5:27:20), Eri Kondo (40 to 44, 4:25:43), and Dawn Hammermeister (45 to 49, 4:55:23).

TAGA

From Page 28

participants to register now to give way for an early plan for the event.

Deadline of entries will be on April 24 and there will be no race day registration

The race will be divided into three age group categories.

The 6-9 years old will negotiate a 100-meter swim, 5-kilometer bike, and 1-km run, while the 10-12 years old will have a 200-m swim, 10-km bike,

and 2-km run. The older age group will have to contend with the longer 400-m swim, 15-km bike, and 3-km run.

Parents and guardians need to sign waiver forms for the kids.

Entry fee for this year will be \$25 for the first participant and \$20 for each additional family member with all forms to be submitted at the same time to avail of the discount.

Last year, the event had five age categories with a total of 18 kids participated.

Cole Chambers crossed the finish line in 25:59 to beat Steven Good-

win, who came in 26:03 in the 5-6 years old for boys.

Andrew Klassen topped the boys 7-8 years old after submitting a time of 16:57. Kento Akimaru arrived in 20:19 for second and Ryosei Toda third with 20:33.

Misaki Kramer (37:42) won in the 9-10 division, while Matthew Klassen triumphed in the 11-12. Micahel Moran (30:20) was the winner in the 13-and-over.

In the girls side, Sarah Klassen won in the 7-8 with her time of 20:20, while Gabbie Race topped the 9-10 with her 38:36.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE East Division W L Pct GB Toronto 10 .714 6 New York .538 Baltimore .500 3 .500 4 1/2 .385 **Central Division** .583 Chicago Detroit .583 Kansas City 583 Minnesota .500 Cleveland .308 3 1/2 **West Division** 5 .615 Oakland 2 1/2 .417 Texas .417 2 1/2 Los Angeles 3 1/2 .333 **NATIONAL LEAGUE East Division** Florida .917 5 Atlanta 6 .500 6 New York 6 .500 6 Philadelphia 5 6 .455 5 1/2 Washington 10 .091 **Central Division** .636 Chicago .615 Cincinnat .545 Pittsburgh 6 .500 Houston 8 .333 Milwaukee .333 **West Division** Los Angeles 10 3 .769 San Diego 9 4 .692 Colorado .364 5 1/2 8 Arizona .333 San Francisco .333 Yesterday's Games Milwaukee 4, N.Y. Mets 2 Atlanta 11, Pittsburgh 1 Florida 7, Washington 4 Philadelphia 5, San Diego 4

Detroit 8, Seattle 2 VERIZON HERITAGE SCORES

FINAL ROUND

Cincinnati 4, Houston 2

San Francisco 2, Arizona 0

N.Y. Yankees 7, Cleveland 3

Minnesota 3, L.A. Angels 1

Texas 6, Kansas City 5

Toronto 1, Oakland 0 Boston 2, Baltimore 1

L.A. Dodgers 14, Colorado 2

St. Louis at Chicago Cubs, ppd., Rain

Chicago White Sox 12, Tampa Bay 2

Е	Brian Gay	67	66	67	64	26
L	uke Donald	73	70	65	66	274
E	Briny Baird	69	72	65	68	274
Т	odd Hamilton	68	66	71	70	27
L	ee Janzen	65	70	69	71	27

Matt Weibring	70	70	69	68	27
Tim Petrovic	68	70	69	70 66	27
Paul Casey Woody Austin	73 70	70 73	69 66	69	278 278
Tommy Armour III	70	68	74	67	27
Boo Weekley	69	72	70	68	27
Dean Wilson	69	74	68	68	27
Steve Marino	71	73	67	68	27
Spencer Levin	72	72	66	69	27
Bo Van Pelt	73	70	66	70	27
Bob Estes Alex Cejka	68 64	71 71	69 72	71 72	279 279
Scott Verplank	72	66	73	69	28
Aaron Baddeley	75	68	67	70	28
Jeff Maggert	68	75	66	71	28
Tom Lehman	70	69	68	73	28
Davis Love III	70	67	69	74	28
Ben Crane	73	69	71	68	28
Lucas Glover	74	68	70	69	28
Jason Dufner Ken Duke	70 69	73 70	69 71	69 71	28 ²
Mathew Goggin	73	70	72	67	28
Scott Piercy	69	70	75	68	28
Chris Couch	73	69	70	70	28
Vaughn Taylor	71	72	69	70	28
Trevor Immelman	66	74	71	71	28
Ted Purdy	67	71	72	72	28
Nick O'Hern	72	70	68	72	28
Greg Owen	69	71	74	69	28
Bill Lunde	73 71	69 71	72 71	69	28
George McNeill Charles Howell III	71 69	71 74	71 70	70 70	28 28
Camilo Villegas	70	72	71	70	28
Fredrik Jacobson	76	68	69	70	28
Nicholas Thompson	73	71	69	70	28
Steve Lowery	73	71	68	71	28
Jeev Milkha Singh	71	69	71	72	28
Zach Johnson	70	71	70	72	28
Tim Clark	72	70	69	72	28
Joe Durant Matt Kuchar	73 71	71 70	71 73	69 70	28 28
Greg Kraft	72	72	69	71	28
Ernie Els	68	71	73	72	28
Nathan Green	70	71	70	73	28
Peter Lonard	72	71	68	73	28
Justin Leonard	70	73	67	74	28
Jose Coceres	74	67	67	76	28
Mark Wilson	72	69	74	70	28
Brad Adamonis Rory McIlroy	74 72	68 71	71	72 71	28: 28:
Stephen Leaney	72 68	71 74	72 72	71 72	28
Tommy Gainey	71	68	73	74	28
Shaun Micheel	72	68	71	75	28
Stewart Cink	72	70	72	73	28
Colt Knost	74	68	72	73	28
Charlie Wi	71	70	70	76	28
Cliff Kresge	68	75	74	71	28
Brett Quigley	72	72	67	77	28
Rod Pampling	68 72	68 68	74 70	78 78	28 28
Heath Slocum Chris DiMarco	72 72	71	70 74	78 72	28
Jonathan Byrd	70	73	73	73	28
Brendon de Jonge	72	72	73	72	28
Michael Letzig	73	71	74	72	29
Aron Price	68	73	73	76	29
Michael Allen	72	72	70	76	29
Charley Hoffman	70	69	72	80	29
Glen Day	71	73	76	72	29
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Jose Maria Olazabal 68 71

Tim Wilkinson

Rory Sabbatini

Matt Weibring

71 67 65 73 70 68 73 66

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277

277

#### BAE

From Page 28

Kamiya (43:01), Ben Babauta (48:55), and Yuko Nagamine (51:24).

Filipino professional triathlete Arland Macasieb, meanwhile, used the 5K Sunset run to warm up for the XTERRA Saipan Championship the following day and easily topped the race with a time of 15:41.

Macasieb, who came all the way from New Jersey, finished last among the 13 pros in the XTERRA Saipan Championship last Saturday won by Sam Gardner of Great Britain and Renata Bucher of Switzerland in the men's and women's divisions, respectively.

A total of 32 runners joined the 5K Sunset Run with Saipan's Allen Moses finishing second to Macasieb in the men's overall with a time of 16:20. He is the lone competitor in the 10-19 male division.

Two female runners—Akane Imaya and Autumn Beechler—were third and fourth overall with their times if 20:29 and 22:30.

Kento Akimaru topped the boys' 9-and-under category by clocking

second (32:36), Hibiki Sakai third (32:37), Ichiro Borja fourth (34:45), Taiga Sato fifth (34:46), Akira Kadokura sixth (36:50) and Mondo Taniguchi seventh (57:26).

Usami Takmitsu finished second to Macasieb in the 30-39 male category.

In the male 40-49, Derek Chamber timed in at 49:23 and Robert Lorez finished with a 24:54.

Beechler was the winner in the 20-29 followed by Eunk Young Lee (27:39), Ana Inos (29:09), and Meihue Rengiil (40:58).

Catherine Anderson (28:23) beat Vilma Pangelinan (41:07) in the 30-39 female.

Imaya led 11 female runners in the 40-49. The others were Gemma Good (24:31), Ryoko Chang (25:59), Fely Santos (26:26), Lori Serna (29:05), Rossana Aquino (29:08), Yukari Nigh (30:54), Tess Duenas (31:00), Luz Ito (41:17), Judy Santos (45:19), and Maria Ornes (49:29).

In the 60-and-over female division, Masako Brobst and Yasuko Weathersbee of Kealakeua, Hawaii finished the 5K distance with times of 42:24 and 58:20, respectively.

NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.

P&S' Jack Reyes hits a two-run single in the bottom of the sixth, capping d his team's 15-13 win against CPA in their game last week in the Inter-Government/Business Slow-pitch Softball League at the Capital Hill Ballfield.

#### P&S eliminates CPA in softball playoffs

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR. REPORTER

P&S and Joeten Motors Jets ousted their respective rivals last Thursday in the ongoing playoffs of the 2009 Bud-Inter-Government/ weiser Business Slow-pitch Softball

League at the Capital Hill Ballfield.

Both Jack Reyes and Mark Flores went 4-for-4 and had three runs each, as P&S eliminated CPA, 15-13, in the loser's bracket game.

CPA was on its way to taking the game by leading 13-6 until the bottom of the sixth inning when P&S rallied with nine runs on six hits and two walks for the win.

Also last Thursday night, No Zone sent Freedom Air to the loser's bracket with a 19-17 count in the winner's bracket game.

With the win, No Zone earned the right to meet the Beach Boys on Monday.

The Beach Boys won over P&S last Tuesday night.

In the other match-up in the winner's bracket last Tuesday, defending champion Department of Community and Cultural Affairs was set to face Docomo after both teams won over their respective opponents Tuesday.

> DCCA advanced by sending the Jets to the loser's bracket, while Docomo beat

The Jets bounced back by eliminating Legislature from the playoffs.

POI Aviation.

Earlier on Monday, the Jets opened their playoff campaign with a lopsided 20-6 victory over CPA before succumbing to the juggernaut of DCCA, which stretched its winning run to 20 after sweeping the pennant.

No Zone also started its title bid with a similar 15-5 easy win at the expense of Legislature before falling short against Freedom Air.

## Four in a row for Raphael

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO



Youth bowler Raphael Zapanta kept his streak in the Fiii Water Prince/ Princess of the

Lanes tournament after ruling the April roll-off Sunday at the Saipan Bowling Center.

It was Zapanta's fourth straight monthly win.

Only four battled for the April title with Zapanta winning by 48 pinfalls against runner-up Troy Verdaguer. Zapanta totaled 667 pinfalls in four games, while Verdaguer tallied 619. Nikko Gutierrez placed third with his 616 pinfalls, while the lone female kegler in the field-Leeanne Yarobwemal—finished fourth with her 523 pinfalls.

Zapanta was off to a strong start in the weekend tournament, knocking 180 pins down in Game 1. He slowed down in Game 2 with 149 pinfalls before showing his best form in Game 3, scoring 206 pinfalls. Zapanta closed out with 132 pinfalls to notch his fourth straight victory.

Verdaguer's highest score was in Game 4 (177), but still it was not enough to halt Zapanta's run, as the former had only 141, 153, and 148 pinfalls in the first three games.



Fiji Water April Prince of the Lanes Raphael Zapanta, third left, is joined by three other participants in the youth roll-off Sunday at the Saipan Bowling Center.

Gutierrez also recorded 141 in Game 1, improved his game a bit in Game 2 (150) before collapsing in Game 3 (126). Gutierrez salvaged a third place finish with his 199 pinfalls in Game 4. Yarobwemal was sluggish in the first three games (118, 136, 119) before posting a decent score in the last game (150).

In the Budweiser King and Queen of the Lanes Tournament. Percy Omechelang and Yho Villavicencio boosted their chances for their second monthly win after taking the lead in Day 1 of the roll-offs.

Omechelang, who won in January, tallied 881 pinfalls for a 17-pinfall lead over second placer Robert Talavera (864).

Seven other male keglers joined Sunday's roll-off with Tony Verdaguer finishing third with 769 pinfalls, followed by Jeremy Williams (769), Rusty Musca (738), Kitz Barja (692), Jon Eparwa (668), Rick Brun (653), and Jared Gutierrez (598).

In the Queen of the Lanes, Villavicencio was leading seven other female participants. The January Queen of the Lanes had 702 pinfalls for a seven-pinfall lead over February winner Diane Camacho (689).

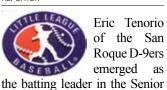
In third place was Emi Williams (689), followed by Gigi Zapanta (655), Ron Cal (609), Elena Soll (599), Gloria Omechelang (580), and Lala Taitano (577).

If Villavicencio and Omechelang's scores were unbeaten in last night's second roll-off, they get to keep the monthly title.

Participants in the King and Queen roll-offs can play in two days, but only the highest score will be counted.

## Tenorio leads Senior League batters

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.



Eric Tenorio of the San Roque D-9ers emerged as

League division of the 2009 Saipan Little League. Tenorio averaged .563, hitting 18-for-32, according to

the latest statistics submitted by the league. Juan Maratita of the Fielders is running second with his .514 (19-for-37), while Eli Augen-

baugh of the pacesetting Jets is

third with his .475 (19-for-40). Making it to the Top 5 are

Tony Aguon of the Fielders, fourth with his .462 (12-for-26) and Richard Dela Cruz of Lion King, fifth with his .444 (12-for-27).

Included in the lower half of the Top 10 are Mike Iguel of Ol'Aces, sixth (.438), Tom Agulto of Fielders, seventh (.425), Nokki Saralu of Fielders, eighth (.417), Mart Sablan of D-9ers, ninth (.407), and Peter Tenorio of Fielders, 10th (.400).

Two Jets are in 11th to 12th— Henry Nakamura (.378) and Justin Kintol (.367).

Michael Mafnas of Ol'Aces is in the 13th spot (.344) and Dave Jones of D-9ers is at 14th (.344).

Joshua Jones of the Jets went

could only hit 15 and is at 15th place with his .333 average.

However, Jones has the lowest ERA of 1.15 after four earned runs in 24.1 innings pitched.

Nokki Lizama of the Fielders is second with his 1.83 (six earned runs in 23 innings) and with 1.97 (three earned runs in 10.2 innings).

Rounding off to the Top 10 in ERA are Anthony Leon Guerrero of Ol'Aces, fourth (2.33), Eric Tenorio of D-9ers, fifth (2.63), Juan Maratita of Fielders, sixth (2.74), Dave Jones of D-9ers, seventh (2.80), Harry Nakamura of Jets, eighth (3.90),

at-bat the most times at 45, but Peter Tenorio of Fielders, ninth (.4.30), and Mike Iguel of Ol'Aces, 10th (5.17).

> Three pitchers are tied with the most strikeouts—Jones, Nakamura, and Saralu-retiring 32 batters so far.

Dave Jones made 28, Dominic Chargualaf of Lion King Augenbaugh of the Jets is third had 22, Dela Cruz, Iguel, and Leon Guerrero all came up with 17, while Maratita and Augenbaugh recorded 15 apiece.

Maratita has the most runs with 19, Saralu has the most doubles with five, Joshua Jones leads in triples with six, while Augenbaugh currently tops the homerun and RBI departments with three and 16, respectively.

Members of the Kagman Elementary School boys and girls teams placed second in the 12-and-under division of the recent 2009 Spring Break Youth Volleyball Festival.

## Runner-up finishes for Blue Marlins in '09 Spring Break Youth Volleyball



mentary School placed second in both the girls and boys divi-

sion of the 12-and-under category of the recent Spring Break Youth Volleyball Festival at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

The Blue Marlins girls team was composed of Natasha Ngirausui, Laydina Queena Saimon, Cassev Babauta, Kelena Saures. Amanda Agulto, Dana Gideon, Grace Iriarte, and Christine

Kagman Ele- Route. Head coach was Hellena Jebehn and assistant coach was Thelma Cing.

> The boys team was anchored by Jerry Rodriguez, Carey Camacho, Dionicio Lizama, Keith Lizama, Akio Aguon, and Cedric Ada. Frank Arurang served as head coach.

> Arurang said placing second in the tournament is already a big achievement for the school.

> "I just want my students to feel proud of themselves for at least finishing in second

place.," he said.

The tournament theme was "Get Fit, Play Volleyball".

The main goal was to promote physical fitness and raise the level of the game among the youth.

Kagman ES entered teams in the fourth, fifth, and sixth grade levels for the first time this year.

The Blue Marlins thanked their principal and vice principal for all their support to students and coaches. (Nazario Rodriguez Jr.)



**28** TUESDAY, APRIL 21, 2009

#### Four in a row for Raphael

Youth bowler Raphael Zapanta kept his streak in the Fiji Water Prince/Princess of the Lanes tournament after ruling the April roll-off Sunday at the Saipan Bowling Center. **27** 



#### Iguodala's jumper helps Sixers stun Magic

Andre Iguodala and the Philadelphia 76ers left the Magic stunned and the home fans silenced. 24



SAIPAN TRIBUNE

# Miller, Camacho top doubles foes

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com REPORTER

he duos of Christian Miller and Daniel Camacho and Rafael Jones and Nathan Nutting provided spectators of the 2009 CNMI Junior Championships at the American Memorial Park courts a good show, playing tough tennis in three hard-fought sets in the finale of the boys' 18-and-under doubles division.



Unfortunately, only one pair had to win with the tandem of Miller and Camacho surviv-

ing a second-set meltdown to notch the championship Sunday afternoon.

Miller and Camacho had a rousing start, blanking Jones and Nutting in the opening set, 6-0. But just when some of the spectators of the title match thought Miller and Camacho will have a walk in the park in the second







Daniel Camacho, left, who teamed up with Christian Miller, right, struggles at the net during their championship game against Rafael Jones and Nathan Nutting in the boys' 18-and-under doubles division in the 2009 CNMI Junior Championships Sunday at the American Memorial Park

the opening set, Jones and Nutting came charging back.

A 6-3 victory in the second set allowed Jones and Nutting to send the championship game to a deciding third set.

The two pairs had a neck-andneck battle in the third set and it was too close that Miller and Camacho won by only a point, 7-6, to secure the title.

Going into the championship game, the duos of Jones and Nutting and Miller and Camacho won their first two matches.

Miller and Camacho downed Andy Nutting and Daniel Park in three sets, 5-7, 6-4, 6-0, and went 2-0 after beating Angelo Jones and Clay McCullough-Stearns, 6-4, 6-3.

Rafael and Nathan also needed three sets to top Andy and Park, 6-1, 3-6, 6-4. In their second game, Rafael and Nathan had an easier win, whipping Angelo and McCullough-Stearns, 6-1, 6-2.

Three other pairs won dou-See MILLER on Page 26

## Rezne-led team tops XTERRA Saipan relay

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO



The Rezne Wong-led team did it, again, topping

the relay race in the 8th Annual XTERRA Saipan Championship Saturday.

Wong, along with biker Rene Calage and runner Matthew Mancao, logged a total time of three hours, 29 minutes, and 18 seconds in the in 1-km swim leg, 30-km bike, and 10-km run to beat five other squads in the relay division of XTERRA Championship.

Wong and Calage also won last year's race with Ronald Villafria as their runner. The trio clocked 3:40:49 in 2008.

The 2008 Swimming World Championship veteran Wong was impressive anew in the waters off Micro Beach, finishing on top of the field with his time of 17:27 and shattering his 2008 mark of 19:13.

Wong defeated eventual runner-up Julie Dibens (17:41), 2008 winner Andrew Noble (17:42), and German pro Sasha Wingerfeld (17:51).

In fifth and sixth places in the swim leg were Wong's teammate in the Tsunami Swimming Center Saipan—

See REZNE on Page 26









### Bae, Macasieb win Sunset Runs

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR. n_rodriguez@saipantribune.com REPORTER

Saipan resident Ji Keum Bae ruled the 10K Sunset Run, which served as one of the side events of the 2009 XTERRA Saipan Championship at the American Memorial Park last Friday.

Bae crossed the finish line with a time of 28:26 after going around the park

Saipan 5K Sunset Run last Friday.

twice. Yoshi Suzuki arrived in 29:54, good for second place.

Noriko Kim, the lone female runner to run the distance, finished third overall

The other runners were Ken Yashimoto (30:00), Ming Lin (30:49), Ken Pierson (33:16), Alexander Racoma (34:57), Stan Good (42:53), Tsutomu See BAE on Page 26

Kento Akimaru crosses the finish line to win the 9-and-under division of the XTERRA

NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.

#### Entry forms for Taga Kids out

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.



Registration forms for the Taga Kids

Triathlon scheduled for April 25 are now available for interested participants.

Tina Goodwin and Mel Daly are organizing the activity, which is one of the side events of the ongoing Saipan Sports Fest organized by Taga Inc. in cooperation with the Marianas Visitors Authority.

Corporate sponsors include Pacific Islands Club. Northwest Airlines, Coca-Cola, Subway, IT&E, Glimpses of Saipan, DFS Galleria, Foremost, Docomo Pacific, and MARPAC.

The first wave of the Taga Kids triathlon will start at 7am at Micro Beach. All the participants must be present by 6:30am.

Russ Quinn of the Northern Mariana Islands Triathlon Federation reminds all

See TAGA on Page 26